

# The Playground

COMMUNITY  
SERVICE

NEW BIDS AND OLD CLAIMS FOR  
SUPPORT  
BY  
GRAHAM TAYLOR

RECREATION FOR INDUSTRIAL  
COMMUNITIES

RECREATION AS A FUNCTION  
OF THE CHURCH

AUGUST  
1920

25  
CENTS

# The Playground

Published monthly at Cooperstown, New York  
for the  
Playground and Recreation Association of  
America  
1 Madison Avenue, New York City

## Membership

Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a member of the Association for the ensuing year



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

The World at Play.....	261
New Bids and Old Claims for Support, by <i>Graham Taylor</i> ..	274
Recreation for Industrial Communities.....	278
Recreation as a Function of the Church.....	283
Community Service in Chicago.....	290
Recreation Centers and Playgrounds of the West Chicago Park System.....	293
What We Did on a Summer Playground in Chicago, III, by <i>Genevieve Turner Ho'man</i> .....	298
Dramatic Activities in Community Service.....	306
Imaginative Rural Recreation, V, by <i>Constance D'Arcy Mackay</i> .....	307
Material for Old New York Celebration of the Pilgrim Tercentenary .....	319
The Spread of Books in California, by <i>Marshall M. Alden</i> ..	320
A Water Hydrant Transformed into a Shower Bath, by <i>Jessie Payne</i> .....	321
Improving the Back Stop, by <i>Arthur Le'and</i> .....	322
Book Reviews .....	323



Entered as second-class matter August 8, 1916, at the Post Office at Cooperstown, New York, under act of March 1 1879. Copyright, 1920, by the Playground and Recreation Association of America



## The Foundation of Character

The foundation of character is laid in childhood—modern playgrounds with their highly developed play equipment are doing much to shape growing children into men and women who will be a credit to the community from which they sprang.

# **MEDART**

**PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

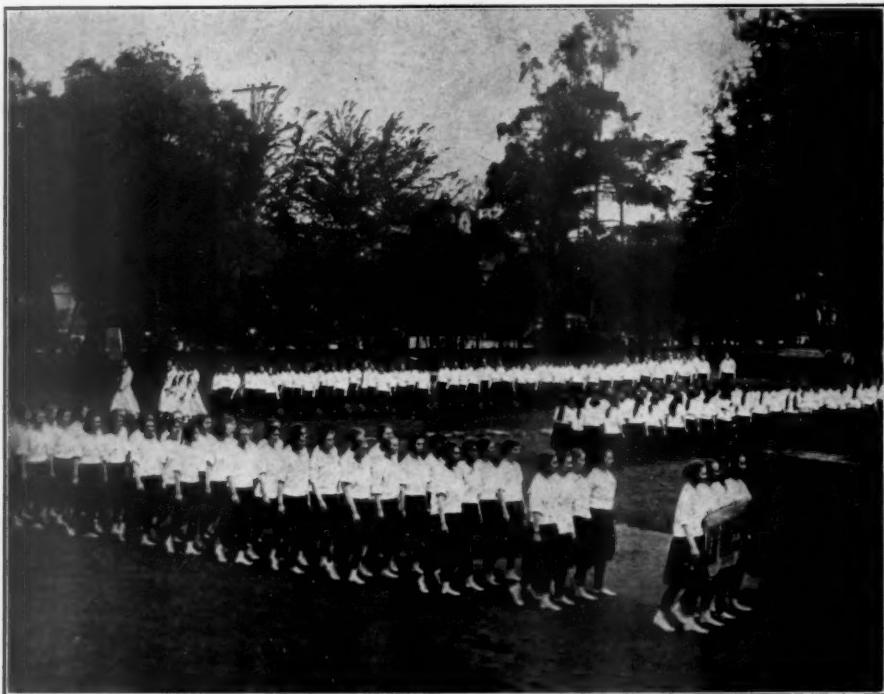
Builders for 50 years of every variety of gymnasium apparatus for men—the Medart Company has naturally been fitted for the leadership, which it has always taken and held, in the furtherance of the playground movement and the perfecting of playground equipment best suited to withstand both the use and abuse to which it is put.

**Send for Catalog "L"**

Catalog "L" fully describes Medart Playground Equipment—offers many suggestions for installations—will be sent if requested on your letterhead.

**FRED MEDART MFG. CO.**  
Potomac & DeKalb Sts.      St. Louis, Mo.

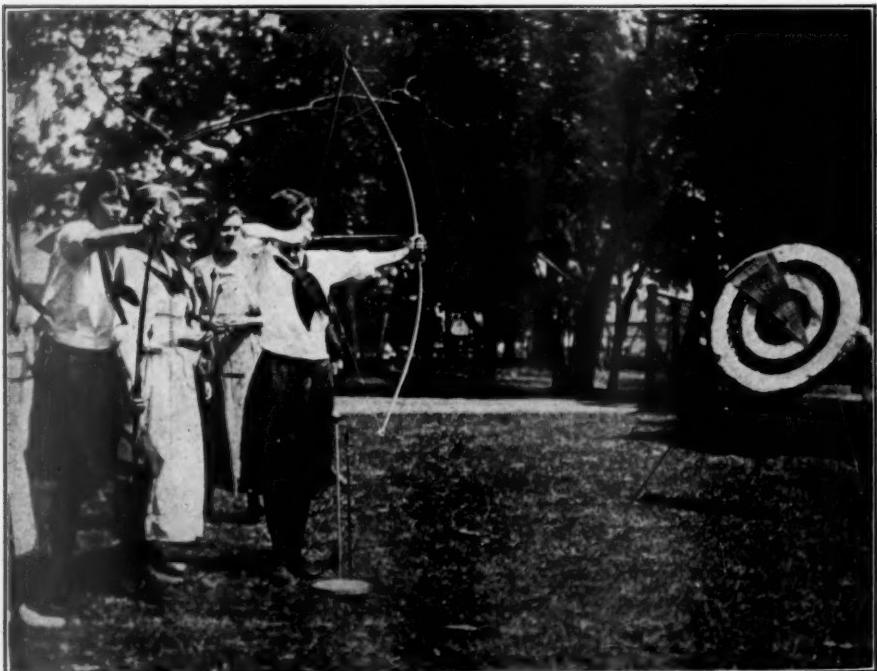
Please mention THE PLAYGROUND when writing to advertisers



Oakland, California

**THE POSTURE PARADE**

(See page 203)



Oakland, California

**ARCHERY**

**Oakland High School Play Day**

# The Playground

Vol. XIV No. 5

AUGUST, 1920

## The World at Play

**Attention of Americanizers**  
—Joseph Lee writes: One evening in a certain town in Pennsylvania some Sicilians who had a wicked feud with another group insisted on escorting a young woman community organizer who had been paying them a visit, down the mountain path at night after the citizenship class, "because there are bad men on the mountain." Reaching the village, they diffidently but courteously handed her fifteen cents: "Please, teacher, for ice cream for you."

What is the good of having a head-on collision with such people? They have their feuds; everybody had feuds a few years ago as we measure man's residence upon this planet. The feud is in its essence the recognition of a moral obligation to avenge a wrong. It needs to be met not by its own method of physical force alone but by explanation—Behold I show you a more excellent way—the duty which the feudist recognizes has been taken

over by the state. But the people who escorted that young organizer down the mountain to protect her from bad men and collected the fifteen cents for ice cream for her were not a kind of people we can afford to hate.

**Baseball and Americanization**—Joseph Lee writes in the *Boston Herald*:

"Apart from lessons on the life and character of Abraham Lincoln, the effective instrument of Americanization, hitherto, has been baseball. The English language is good, if it is not rammed down a man's throat instead of proceeding out of it, and a knowledge of the constitution is innocuous if reverence for the letter on the part of our more zealous Americanizers is not too profusely illustrated by their practical disregard of it in spirit.

"But knowledge of English and of the constitution is at best a means of induction into American life and consciousness; baseball is the thing itself.

"To swat the ball with two

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

down and the bases full, to successfully pursue the whiskered grounder (even at the expense of splitting one's infinitive in the process), to cut off the flower of insurgent hope at the domestic thresh-old—these are experiences in which all America participates and in the burning-in of which upon the consciousness the privilege of full fellowship is received.

"Language and constitutions may predispose, but a touch of baseball makes the whole world kin.

"Therefore long live baseball and may participation wait on appetite and membership on both. And may the experience in increasing measure be personal, on park and playground and spare lot and in the street; for citizenship cannot be vicariously enjoyed."

**Psychologically Sound.**—Says *The New York Times* editorially:

"After centuries of Puritanism the world is realizing that the worst thing for the morals of the young is to suppress their vital impulses, that the best thing is to give them a normal, wholesome and, if possible, a beautiful expression. This gleam of sanity was the inspiration of the *war camp recreation movement*, and

it resulted in a vast moral betterment—and doubtless in no little economic gain."

**Everyman's Clubs.**—Here race meets race, labor meets business man, buddy meets buddy,—all on the footing of mere men. That is why they are called Everyman's Clubs. There are fifteen of them in operation west of the Mississippi River under the auspices of the National Catholic War Council.

Everyman's Club provides a place for the man who is temporarily out of work, for the man stopping in town for a short while. It is also a place where ex-service men are found, for here they have what was offered in the service clubs, reading and writing facilities and entertainment.

In charge of each club is a secretary in whose hands is the business management and the direction of all hospitality and recreation. However, most of the latter is left to the inclination of the men themselves. The club rooms are equipped with lounging chairs, reading matter of all description is available, free stationery is provided, and such games as checkers and chess are played continually. The men are allowed to smoke at their will, talk friend to

## *THE WORLD AT PLAY*

foe and say anything they like provided it does not reflect on the club in any unfair way.

Prompt assistance is given to men seeking jobs. There is an employment department connected with each club. In Omaha, ex-service men were referred to the club through the cooperation of other service clubs in the city and a great many men were placed in permanent positions. In Seattle, the club still maintains a weekly average of 1,000 applications for positions and in Spokane, the employment bureau is still doing some very good work. At the present time a number of laboring men are being placed in temporary positions. Of course the employment service is offered to the men free of charge.

Help is given to those tracing lost relatives, and for those wishing instruction in technical subjects means for obtaining it is provided. The information service rendered in the clubs is of great help to the transient guests.

Although each man going into the club is allowed to do about what he pleases, special forms of amusement are offered. For instance, the Everyman's Club in Salt Lake City gives moving pictures three times a week and occa-

sionally arranges for boxing bouts. In Seattle, Washington, lectures on various subjects are offered with the movies on Wednesday and Saturday evenings.

The clubs are maintained on a non-sectarian and non-political basis and no distinction given as to the type and character of the men who patronize them. They have been found especially helpful to the laboring man who finds in them not only a boon for his employment troubles, but a place where his social needs are satisfied to a great degree.

**Spoonwood Community House.**—In connection with the rural work in Worcester County, Massachusetts, carried on by the Music Department of Worcester Community Service, an interesting community house was discovered in Oakdale. A request came from Oakdale for a song leader to help with the America Day Community Sing which the people of the town wished to have. In making preparations for this sing it was learned that Oakdale is a small community, possibly ten miles from Worcester. There are but two churches in the town, the Methodist and the Catholic, and when they wish to have a community celebration, to make certain of the

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

attendance of the entire population, the Old Spoonwood Schoolhouse is used. One of the elderly women who had attended school there gave the history of this schoolhouse which, it is said, was among the first in the state of Massachusetts. After the town had outgrown this old schoolhouse a new building was built, better fitted to meet the need of the second generation. The old schoolhouse was then closed and was unused for many years. Not long ago some of the townspeople cleaned out this old building, painted the walls, hung a few pictures and now "it belongs to them." In it the women of the little community did all their Red Cross work and now meetings of community interest are held there, the people meeting together as citizens of Oakdale and not as formerly in groups of Catholics or Protestants.

**A Community Musicale.—***Now and Then* was the most recent success presented under the leadership of the Kansas City Community Service Association. Twelve organizations offered their most entertaining acts on the stage of the auditorium theatre as their contributions to this success. The "mirror musicale" reflecting the enterprise of

these various groups in one show, not only proved diverting but proved also that a new community spirit is rapidly growing in Kansas City.

The Junior League, Y. W. C. A., Y. M. C. A., Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Y. M. H. A., several dancing and dramatic schools and a community orchestra joined forces for the production. The result was a form of community entertainment not often realized in so large a city.

An act from *Il Trovatore* was presented by the local Opera Company, and Yeats' one-act play *Pot o' Broth* by the students of the third grade of McCoy's school won a great deal of applause. Strikingly unusual was the contribution of the Neo-Fantasionist conservatory players, *The Dawn of Art*.

There were farmerettes, knitters, and camp entertainers in the war service section of the program; and in the Community Service section the realization of music, art, dancing, drama, and play to the life of the community was beautifully and artistically portrayed.

**Nature Guide System in California.—**The California Nature Study League organized about two years ago has been so successful that the

## *THE WORLD AT PLAY*

Federal Government will extend the Nature Guide System to Yosemite National Park during the 1920 vacation season.

The Nature Study Guide Movement which is being fostered by the Federal Government in cooperation with the California State Government had its beginnings in an international survey of the world's recreational culture and it owes much to the experience of European countries. Europe with a culture much older than ours, many years ago grasped the value of making scientific knowledge available even to young children, and Nordic or blonde Europe has long had the highly organized nature study field excursion. The nature study hike by school children under the direction of trained scientists has become an institution overseas. In Denmark even children in the school for blind, unable to appreciate the color of the forest birds, are allowed to enjoy their music.

As an experiment in internationalizing such recreational culture, the California Nature Study League undertook to offer Californians the results of these investigations from Nordic Europe. The work commenced from the series of

bulletins utilizing the California county library system. Out of this came several concepts. One of these was the plan of having a high powered scientist act as nature guide at a string of adjacent summer resorts. The first test was made in 1918 at three widely scattered California resort areas. These were made by the State Fish and Game Commission as a part of their conservation work. This having proved satisfactory, the Commission, cooperating with the League, decided on a wider experiment at Lake Tahoe.

During 1919 Dr. H. C. Bryant of the University of California, acted as nature leader. There was nature play for children, including such games as "bark feeling" and "herb smelling" blind fold games. There were nature study hikes for adolescents and adults. Business men left their trout fishing to accompany the nature guide. At the evening camp fires there were nature study talks, movies and lantern slide lectures on wild life.

The success was beyond all expectation. This year with the cooperation of the Federal Government and with the participation of a number of well-known scientists, it is believed

## *THE WORLD AT PLAY*

that the movement will have a tremendous impetus.

**An Albanian Playground.**—In the official magazine of the American Association of Park Superintendents appears the story of the Red Cross playground in the town of Elbasan. The little city was a stronghold of Mohammedanism in Albania and the establishment of the playground was the tactful way in which the sympathy of the officials was won. Permission was at first granted for a play festival for the children to be held in the national park near the city. Grown-ups and Italian and Albanian officers as well as the children crowded the wide lawns. A band, ferris wheel and many games never played before kept the happy children busy for a long day. At the end the Prefect of the town gave permission for the use of part of the park as a permanent playground, and here, just outside the city the boys and girls and their families spend all the time they can spare from other things.

**Why Not More Wading Pools?**—“On a very hot day in Berkeley, California,” writes a friend of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, “the neighborhood children were playing about a large foun-

tain in the fashionable new addition to the city. One little girl sat on the edge and paddled her feet in the water. Other children soon followed her example and a few ran home returning a few moments later in bathing suits. In a short time the large round fountain was filled with laughing, dancing children, the water being very shallow and not too cold. Automobiles, street cars and pedestrians stopped to watch the children. It was, to my mind, most wholesome and normal play.

“I believe large shallow fountains could be established in cities at a comparatively small cost. There would be no need of a building as in the case of swimming pools and but little space would be used. A small triangle of land such as is often unused in small cities because of lack of funds to improve it and turn it into a park, could probably be purchased by a community organization and converted into a bathing fountain. Of course a very simple geyser spray with cement column and basin would suit the purpose where no funds are available for stone or carving. The constant changing of the water in a fountain seems to me to be infinitely more sanitary than a

## *THE WORLD AT PLAY*

swimming pool where the water is changed only once a day."

**First Community House in the State.**—It is said that the community house to be erected soon in Gallatin County, Montana, is the first in the state. The building will be a high school by day and a social center whenever school activities are not going on. The voters of the district showed their attitude toward such a project by voting almost unanimously for the bond issue.

**Three in One.**—Another combination of school building and social center is to be erected soon by the Buffalo Board of Education. Three portable school buildings under one roof will be made available for dances and entertainments by the removing of the partitions. The seats in the classrooms will also be removable. The whole space will be about sixty by ninety feet, and will serve adequately both for entertainments given by the children and for community gatherings.

**Getting the Parks Used.**—Joseph Lee has made some suggestions to the Metropolitan District Commission of Boston regarding the use of park areas, which may be ap-

plicable to other park districts.

The Commission, Mr. Lee suggests, should be in very close touch with the school authorities in all the towns in the metropolitan district with the purpose of getting the teachers of nature study and of art to encourage the children to sketch, take pictures and to go on bicycle rides in connection with these trips. They should have plenty of good stereopticon lectures about the different reservations with careful directions as to how to get there.

The physical directors and submasters should also be interested from the physical development point of view. The submasters might perhaps organize hikes in some districts instead of working on the playgrounds Saturday mornings.

Big occasions through which a crowd is drawn to the park help a great deal because people who have gone once and know the way are very likely to go again. With this in mind some sort of Indian pageant might be held. There might, too, be some kind of water carnival with magic lanterns and singers coming round on floats. Canoe races and other water sports

## *THE WORLD AT PLAY*

could be encouraged on the Basin.

The provision of good boats which might be rented would make it possible for people to take long rowing trips for the week-ends.

**The Opening of the Tercentenary Celebration.**—A military garden party on Governor's Island opened the national celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims on the American continent. With army planes and a navy dirigible hovering just above their heads and a splendid program of athletic games going on continually during the afternoon the guests found it difficult to concentrate on any one attraction.

The whole Island was in holiday attire for the occasion. Prettily decorated army tents dotted the lawns and served as centers of rest and hospitality, and flags of all descriptions were in evidence everywhere. But the most important and evident feature among the decorations were the small red tags that were being sold by helpers of the Army Relief Society and which were worn by all those who subscribed to the work of the Society.

The party was under the auspices of the Sulgrave Institution which with the co-

operation of fifty other organizations participated in the festivities. In one of the largest tents the committee in charge received. Lieutenant General and Mrs. Robert Lee Bullard, Rear Admiral and Mrs. James H. Glennon and others were in the line. There were addresses by Col. William Weigel who spoke for the army, and by Mr. Alton B. Parker who spoke for the Sulgrave Institute. One of the guests who received much attention during the afternoon was Mrs. George A. Custer, widow of the famous General Custer, who has always been an untiring friend of the army.

The athletic events drew large crowds of enthusiastic spectators who seemed especially interested in the track events and the boxing matches. The contests included a 70 yard dash, 70 yard hurdles, 16 pound shot put, running high jump, pole vaulting, and a tug of war. Following these events there was a polo game played between two army teams and a military escort of colors and battalion parade by the twenty-second United States Infantry. Fifty disabled soldiers from Fox Hills Hospital, Staten Island, occupied boxes at the games.

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

The People's Choral Union sang several selections under the direction of Mr. Edward G. Marquard and Miss Helen York delighted the audience with a program of short solos.

**Health on the Stage.**—Another experiment in impressing constructive health ideas by an appeal to the dramatic instinct has been made in California. At the suggestion of the children's health center of Alameda County, the recreation department of Oakland presented the children of two of the school playgrounds in *Mother Goose Up-to-Date*, *The Theft of Thistledown* and the *Health Alphabet*.

The invitation to see these plays in the children's educational theatre of the Municipal Auditorium was sent to "all friends of wholesome play and recreation in the city."

**An Annual Field Day.**—The second annual field day in Wheeling, West Virginia, was attended by over seven thousand parents and friends of the public school children. The Greater Wheeling Band played for the folk dances. Physical education, play and athletics made a splendid showing in this community program, which is arousing more interest each year.

**Equal Credit for Song**

**Leading and Mathematics.**—Hunter College of the City of New York is offering a course in the summer session in methods of leading mass singing, conducted by Frank Hayek and Kenneth S. Clark, instructors in the Training School for Song Leaders, New York Community Service. There is no fee for this course as it is given in cooperation with New York Community Service but it involves the obligation of volunteer service in leading community singing. The subjects covered are song leading as a means of service, crowd psychology, music fundamentals, philosophy of mass singing and song leading including time beating, rhythmic precision, poise, grace and calisthenic exercises in teaching rhythm. Accompaniment for community singing and how to organize group singing are also studied. It is interesting to note that the same credit is given for this course as for mathematics.

**Progress in Winnetka, Illinois.**—In 1915 the Playground and Recreation Association of America was able through its Field Department to give some assistance to Winnetka—a community of 6000 people—in planning its recreation program.

Word has come to the As-

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

sociation that work has been completed on the second nine holes on the additional forty acres given to the park several years ago, thus providing the community with an eighteen-hole public golf course, together with baseball diamonds and other recreational facilities. The Park Board has lately purchased two hundred feet lake frontage on either side of Elder Lane, which is in the southern section of the village, giving that district a bathing beach two hundred and eighty feet long. In addition to this the Park Board has purchased what was known as the "Island" in the Skokie, the "Island" consisting of a great wooded section. The Park Board is now condemning an approach to this from one of the streets of the town.

After an exciting village election recently held to determine the site of the new seventh and eighth grade school, a decision was reached in favor of the twelve acre tract owned by the School Board facing the Skokie playfield. This will give opportunity for a splendid recreation development.

**Playgrounds in Pensacola.**—In Pensacola, Florida, people are looking at a map of their city on which is marked every

available place which might be used as a playspace either now or in the future. This is serving as a stimulant. In the meantime they are interested in the activities being carried on in the thirty-one play fields already established. During the month of May 5100 children played in the parks and on the school grounds under supervision. One of the Community Service workers is preparing a splendid program through the public schools which will be presented as a public demonstration of play activities. It is planned to give a number of plays on the various playgrounds during the summer and assistants as well as participants are enlisted.

At a recent informal exhibition on the Plaza of the city hall many spectators lined the walks to watch the games and calisthenics, and not a few became so young in spirit that they stepped into the games and played with the children. On one occasion when a play group were rehearsing games in preparation for having their pictures taken the merchants across the street became so interested that they sent over confections, whistles and other souvenirs to be distributed among the children. These in-

## *THE WORLD AT PLAY*

cidents are illustrative of the general interest in the work which Community Service is attempting to carry on among the children of the community.

**Developments in Hawaii.—** Dr. Henry S. Curtis has reported some very interesting developments in connection with a recent trip taken by him through the Hawaiian Islands where he gave many lectures to groups of teachers and normal students and to various other groups. Dr. Curtis states that in almost every place where one or more lectures were given the teachers afterward organized some form of volley ball or tennis club. In connection with the lectures, games such as volley ball, indoor baseball, pull-away, prisoner's base and circle dodge ball were taught the teachers and the children.

The Islands were ready to take action in regard to the play movement and there was an unusual response. This response has shown itself in various ways. The county supervisors have voted to purchase the Beretania Playground, to investigate the cost of purchasing additions to Aala Park and of covering the stream to the south of it and adding this to the park. At several places in Kauai ad-

ditional ground was offered for the school playgrounds, and in Maui, a private family offered to give whatever land was needed. In a number of instances assistance was offered in grading these grounds. One interested woman offered to equip five of the school playgrounds and the Women's Club secured from Dr. Curtis detailed recommendations for equipping others.

In Honolulu, a Physical Trainers' Association was organized with practically all those doing work in physical training in the active membership. In Kauai, a Welfare Workers' Association was organized which was composed of practically all the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. workers, the welfare workers and visiting nurses. Here there were also formed three district teachers' associations, which, according to the program, are to meet once a month and to have a literary and recreational program, with organized walks over each week-end. In Maui there were also organized three district teachers' associations to meet once a month with a similar program. In Hawaii, the two associations which had formerly met but once a year, adopted

## *THE WORLD AT PLAY*

the plan of monthly meetings. A plan for a recreation commission in Honolulu was drawn up and presented to the county supervisors.

**Ypsilanti Work Extending.**—Deyo S. Leland, Director of Recreation, Ypsilanti Recreation Commission, reports the opening of four summer playgrounds—one of which, in the colored district, will have an old schoolhouse as a social center.

A schedule of baseball games extending through August has been worked out for the Ypsilanti Industrial Athletic League, organized under the Recreation Commission, and is available in an attractively printed little booklet containing the constitution and by-laws of the League. A copy of the booklet has been placed in the hands of every factory worker in the community.

A further extension of the industrial program is found in the noon-time recreation at the factories for employed girls and men. Community singing, dancing, games and storytelling are some of the features of the program being developed by the Commission.

With double the budget of last year available, the Recreation Commission is looking

forward to a year of real service to the community.

**Youngstown Plays Ball.**—School grounds and vacant lots in Youngstown, Ohio, have taken on new life during the past few weeks. No less than one hundred and five ball teams have been organized in the various grade schools of the city, with a thousand boys taking part in scheduled games, an achievement made possible through the cooperation of public and parochial schools, the Playground Association, Young Men's Christian Association, and the boys' workers of the Joint Committee.

The use of the large playground ball has made it possible for from four to six teams to play on a large lot at one time, and for small vacant fields to be used as diamonds. By encouraging playground ball among the boys of the city it is found that fewer windows are broken, and that many boys who cannot afford the equipment necessary for playing the hard ball game may enjoy the other with little or no expense. Already very popular in Chicago, Cleveland, and other large cities, the game is fast gaining favor in Youngstown, and regular leagues will be formed during the summer.

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

**Progress in Havana.**—Word comes from Clarence H. MacDonald, formerly engaged in recreation work in the States, now Director of Physical Education in the Y. M. C. A. at Havana, that a great interest in playgrounds is being aroused throughout Cuba. Through Mr. MacDonald's efforts the Women's Club and the Rotary Club at Havana are cooperating in the establishment of a model playground which will serve as a demonstration center. A small private park now containing one slide and a tennis court will be equipped and opened in the fall, and Mr. MacDonald will give a part of his time to directing activities.

**Endicott-Johnson Workers.**—“I hardly know where to begin,” writes Harold F. Albert on being asked to outline briefly the recreation facilities available at Endicott and Johnson City, New York. These towns are the home of the Endicott-Johnson Workers, and Mr. Albert is Director of Recreation. So complete and in many cases unique are these facilities that one appreciates Mr. Albert’s difficulty. Few industrial workers have the opportunity of spending their leisure hours so happily and healthfully.

A community house at

Johnson City is known as “Your Home.” Library, sun parlor, dining room and kitchen occupy the main floor. Here it is possible for workers who have not the facilities for entertaining at home to bring their friends and use the kitchen and dining room equipment without expense. Thus many pleasant gatherings are held in a homelike atmosphere. The second floor is fitted up as a children’s room, where a young woman directs the play and conducts the story hour. A smoking room on the top floor is used for reading and card playing.

Outdoor facilities, all of which are lighted for evening use, include six tennis courts, playground equipment of all kinds, and a large swimming pool, in connection with which there are bath house accommodations for three hundred persons. The baseball field, with a grand stand seating four thousand, is a miniature of the Polo Grounds in New York City. Besides the regular baseball games, this field is used for boxing and other public contests which are featured throughout the summer. The baseball leagues are made up entirely of workers, six teams in Johnson City and six in Endicott

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

playing regularly scheduled games.

Eleven bands are maintained by the Company, and concerts are given frequently at the various band stands scattered throughout the towns.

Endicott's finest feature is a park of eighty-five acres beautifully situated on the bank of the Susquehanna River. A half-mile turf track occupies a part of this area, and here during the summer season many of the finest horses in the country are tried out. On the river bank large pavilions are fitted up with electrical appliances for preparing picnic meals. A fifteen thousand dollar merry-go-round delights the children who are permitted to ride as many times as they wish throughout the day and evening. Equally popular are the playground equipment and the swimming

and wading pool. Another large pavilion is used for dancing, and many people come from a considerable distance to take advantage of the fine music and attractive surroundings which may be enjoyed without cost.

Both Johnson City and Endicott have a series of "dinners" at which meals are served at very low prices. Free medical attention is available to all the workers and their families.

**Recreation for Industrial Communities.**—Under this title THE PLAYGROUND in this issue begins a new series of vital and interesting articles dealing with this much-discussed problem. There will be five installments dealing with facilities at hand and to be provided and relating the experiences of many typical communities.

---

## New Bids and Old Claims for Support\*

GRAHAM TAYLOR, Chicago Commons

During and since the war nearly every local community has responded to the need and appeal of emergency organizations. Most, if not all, of them demonstrated their worth in two ways. They met very obvious and specific needs, as did the Red Cross, War Camp Community Service and state councils of defense. They also met the scarcely less important general need of organiz-

---

\* Courtesy of Chicago Daily News, Chicago, Ill.

## *NEW BIDS AND OLD CLAIMS FOR SUPPORT*

ing for public service the people of every local community. Even where organization for public purposes had previously been established, they were supported by a very small proportion of the people either financially or by personal enlistment.

In prompting or obliging people to be conscious of what their town, their state, their country, needed them to do together for its defense and its efficiency, the war did a great service to the American people, a service too valuable to be lost in peace. Little or no united effort, or any real community consciousness, is shown by the people in many, if not most, American towns. Therefore some of the most popular of these organizations are reorganizing their activities so as to hold together and extend their membership for peace time service. Thereby they are conserving an invaluable national asset and should be encouraged and supported in so doing.

### **A Fair Challenge to be Met**

Their efforts to do so, however, inevitably raise fair questions which should be publicly discussed and privately cleared up. Chief among these questions is this:

What effect is the bid for support by these new peace time agencies to have upon the work and claims of the long established, well recognized, locally organized associations hitherto relied upon to do things essential to the welfare of every community? Such organizations have never had more support than they needed. Most of them owe their initiative and development to the self-sacrificing money contributions and personal service of the public-spirited minority in each community. They have reason to fear the effect of dividing such gifts and service with other agencies. In case the number of givers and volunteers is not largely increased in response to the bids of the new claimants for support, the welfare of the community itself would quite surely be hindered more than it would be helped.

As a matter of fact, such did not prove to be the experience during the war now ended.

Regular agencies, such as Catholic Charities, the Jewish Welfare, the Salvation Army, the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., and the American Library Association, were greatly advanced by making common cause with War Camp Community Service in their sevenfold appeal.

They were all helped, and not hindered, by the still greater response that was made to the repeated appeals of the

## *NEW BIDS AND OLD CLAIMS FOR SUPPORT*

Red Cross. This is hopeful, but not decisive as to the response which may be made to the separate appeals of the newer and older peace time agencies. No such emergency is recognized now as then, even though it may be as great, and in some respects greater. Moreover, in no community, much less in the nation at large, are the people nearly so well united now as they were then.

### **Where Charity Could Begin At Home**

So there is need of questioning, of caution, of consideration, upon the part of each of these agencies, regarding the other and upon the part of the community in behalf of its own vital interests. Such cautious consideration has not been lacking in the plans and purposes of those projecting these new movements, to their credit be it said. Neither has patience, suspense of judgment and willingness to co-operate been lacking upon the part of the established agencies—the more to their credit. So it looks as though with this good-heartedness, backed up by clear-headedness, the older and the newer efforts may be expected not only to supplement each other valuably, but largely to recruit the giving, cooperating, public-spirited constituency in very many communities the country over. Where there is any danger of lacking these gains the really public-spirited people in any community are not only justified in bringing heedless competitors and duplicators into line with the needs and interests of the whole community but are obliged to do so.

### **Two Clearing House Centers**

Here in Chicago there are two centers which can effectively act as clearing houses controlling such situations. One is the Association of Commerce subscriptions investigating committee, which can withhold its indorsement from duplicating, interfering or harmfully competing agencies. The other is the Chicago Council of Social Agencies, which now closely associates official and voluntary agencies, including those of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish constituencies, as well as those of a more public nature. Such tendencies have already been thwarted by these influences, which are likely to prove adequate to lead into better ways those who heedlessly might repeat such attempts.

The home service department of the American Red Cross has worked harmoniously with the United Charities and other relief agencies, to the advantage of both groups and the community at large. In communities where relief agencies are well established

## *NEW BIDS AND OLD CLAIMS FOR SUPPORT*

and supported the Red Cross service is likely to revert to its old function of meeting emergencies. But where this home service has been rendered in hundreds of places not hitherto or now organized for the relief or prevention of misery, the Red Cross should continue to hold the community without giving way to any other organization.

So, too, Community Service, into which the War Camp Community Service has developed, has a boundless field for its co-operative as well as supplementing work, even right here in Chicago. Its first purpose is to work with, through and for existing agencies. In fulfilling it, Community Service can first of all co-operate with the recreation centers and playgrounds of the park commissions of the city, in giving wider publicity and gaining larger use of their great equipment, especially at points where it is not used to its full capacity. It can help put the parks, the lake front, the Art institute, the library, the Field museum and every other facility to wider use. Later perhaps it can help equip more adequately the leisure time facilities and citizenship work of the social settlements and other community centers.

### **The New Can Help the Old**

It already has a large constituency in the returned soldiers and regular army and navy men, for whose comfort and recreation it provides. Its girls' work, carried over from the women's division of the state council of defense, holds a membership of between 5,000 and 6,000 at fifty-five units, with a paid staff of twenty-four workers, both white and colored. Capt. Marshall Field, chairman of the new organization, and Eugene T. Lies, its executive secretary, will welcome cooperation and suggestion at the office of Community Service, 108 South LaSalle Street.

The United Americans can make their patriotic propaganda broad enough to work not only with but through the various racial organizations and other agencies promoting citizenship in a way to standardize and correlate, encourage and make more effective the whole Americanization movement. The Union League foundation for boys' clubs not only can establish a boys' club of its own to set the highest type of such work, but also it may join in the effort which the Rotary club is making to ascertain and supply the needs of the long established but ill equipped centers for boys' work at the settlements and elsewhere.

The old claimants for public support should thus be given reason to welcome the new bidders, because both alike are essential to the public welfare.

## Recreation for Industrial Communities

WORKERS' CONTROL is a means, and not an end. Work in the modern industrial world is unpleasant for the majority of workers. *They will find their expression as human beings outside the working hours—in the use of leisure for family life, education, recreation, a hobby.* Control they will use to get efficient management and machinery with which to shorten hours to the minimum which is consistent with the essential work of high production. Control they wish, to save themselves from the waste and insecurity and long hours of the present system, which leaves no secure and creative leisure. A minimum of work consistent with a production which will give sufficient commodities for a good life for all workers—they will use control to obtain that. But control will never of itself be an answer to the instincts thwarted by standardized machine industry. *The answer will be found outside of working hours.*

Frank Hodge, in *The Survey*.

It is obvious that in considering the problems of recreation for workers in industry no stereotyped form of organization can be outlined—since the field to be covered is so vast, ranging from the desolate mining town, utterly lacking in facilities, to the larger industrial centers where commercial amusement is an important factor in the leisure time of the workers.

The following outline, based on the experience of various industries in the field of recreation, is intended merely to suggest some of the facilities and activities which have been tried out and found practicable. No attempt has been made to touch the problem of facilities within the factory or mill (such as lunch rooms, rest rooms, baths, gymnasiums, lockers,) which are a part of the equipment of every well-organized plant and which make for the comfort and happiness of employees during working hours. Those features have been fully discussed in a recent bulletin of the United States Department of Labor, *Welfare Work for Employes in Industrial Establishments*. This bulletin (No. 250) is the result of an investigation extending over a period of twelve months, during which thirty-one states were visited and the welfare schedules of 431 establishments secured.

The following suggestions relate rather to the recreational program of an industrial community. Employers are coming more and

## *RECREATION FOR INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES*

more to the realization that recreation for their workers is a family affair, and that whatever gifts are made in the way of distinctly recreation facilities must identify the worker with community life, not separate him from it. This is illustrated by the fact that many industrial concerns have established club or community houses for their employees at some distance from the plant rather than in direct connection with it. In the great majority of cases these clubs are entirely supported and managed by the employees themselves.

In wholesome leisure time activities, many feel, lies the solution of many of our present industrial problems. One employer who was sincerely trying to get at the reason for the dissatisfaction apparent among his workers interviewed two men who had announced their intention of leaving the employ of the company. He tried from every angle to get their point of view, but they could give no reason for leaving except—general discouragement. This condition is not to be wondered at when we realize that the lives of the great majority of workers hold few interests outside of working hours. With the shorter working day and increased wage the problem of providing recreational facilities has taken on increased significance. Shall this increase in money and leisure result in greater inefficiency, more lay-offs, illness, and discontent? Mis-spent leisure is largely a question of having nothing better to do. We cannot expect a community of workers, many of them foreign born, inexperienced in organization, to develop for themselves an adequate recreational program; but it has been demonstrated that under wise leadership they will enter enthusiastically into the promotion of such a program, creating for themselves new interests and through these interests finding happiness and contentment.

### **LEADERSHIP**

As in the case in all community organization the absolutely vital factor is first, last, and always, leadership. Joseph Lee puts it this way:

"We are always saying community expression must come up from the people, not be imposed from above. If so, why don't we leave the people alone and let it come? Well, there was once a boy trying to sell peanuts on a train and nobody would buy. Then he went through and gave every man a peanut. After that he sold all the bags he had. Of course, the peanut must be a good one."

## *RECREATION FOR INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES*

The leader, whether he be employed by one industry, by a group of industries, or by the community, must be a person of ability, common sense, tact and vision. He must, above all, have a sympathetic and intelligent understanding of the relationship of employer and employee and of the many perplexing problems which are constantly arising in connection with any industry. He must understand the needs and desires of the foreign born and he must win the confidence of all community agencies and groups so that each may contribute effectively to the general recreation program of the community. In small communities where the leader may be without paid assistants, he will need to have the facility for conducting personally a wide range of activities. In this case the development of a staff of volunteer workers is essential.

### **ORGANIZATION**

"Let the activities grow out of the neighborhood itself." The organizer launching a program in the industrial center will invariably hit upon some one outstanding recreational need. In endeavoring to meet this he will easily win the confidence and support of the community and thus pave the way for other activities. In the larger industrial centers a study of existing facilities in connection with schools, churches, Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations and settlements will invariably disclose many possibilities. In smaller towns where resources are limited the provision of a center which may become the rallying point for all activities will be one of the first problems.

One organizer who is a strong advocate of the "self-developing" type of program describes the way in which a certain center grew out of the needs of the neighborhood. This was not an industrial community but it will serve as an illustration:

"In one of our large parks there was, of course, a playground. Out of the playground grew a mothers' club of those interested in the welfare of their children. The club met in the Park House at night. One cold winter night the mothers noticed a few soldiers gazing in on the warmth and brightness and invited them in to share their refreshments. The next club night there were twice or thrice as many soldiers with faces against the windows. The mothers decided to give a dance for the soldiers. If a dance—of course girls! So a girls' club sprang into existence—the daughters, sisters and friends of the mothers. The demand grew so rapidly that it was decided to make the Park House into a homey, cozy place for the

## *RECREATION FOR INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES*

men, open all the time. For this larger proposition we wanted the backing of more of the community. Every club, organization and interest was reached and asked to send representatives to a meeting at which the week-around plan worked up by the mothers and girls and the leader was put up to them for their support. The response was immediate. Everybody did all that was asked and more. Besides regulation forms of recreation—dancing, dancing lessons, pool, games, magazines, concerts, community sings—the men and girls helped to work out their own plans. Candy pulls, picnics, parties of all sorts, game tournaments, stunt nights run by the girls and boys, are the order of every week. They bring their musical instruments and are forming an orchestra. Just now the sailors and girls are working up a minstrel show—actors, dancers, author, composer, musicians, and stage managers all are members of the center."

Could a center possibly have a more natural, normal growth out of the needs and desires of the community than that? Such a center automatically solves many of the most perplexing problems.

At Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a park and playground seemed to be the most pressing need of the community. It was discovered that Saucon Creek and its vicinity was a favorite gathering place for industrial workers. The Bethlehem Recreation Commission finally decided to purchase this property and the women of the city were largely responsible for raising funds for this purpose. Working bees were held at Saucon Park to which the whole community flocked with every tool from hammer to paint brush. Dedication exercises were held on July 4th, and since that time thousands of industrial workers have enjoyed the swimming, boating, picnics, athletic activities and band concerts which have made the spot a true community center. Recently plans for further development have been made. The citizens of Bethlehem have raised \$20,000 and this amount has been duplicated by the Steel Company. An old barn is being remodelled for a community house. Three new ball fields have been laid out, and a city industrial league started.

When the American Brass Company of Waterbury, Connecticut, agreed to lend their golf lots for a community playground, the Community Service Commission voted to concentrate on the development of this property. Immediately two local manufacturers offered to advance the \$3,000 which was needed to level the ground and lay out baseball diamonds. The Carpenters' Union agreed to give their Saturday afternoons to erecting a locker house, and the painters, plumbers and electricians offered to do their part of the

## *RECREATION FOR INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES*

work. Before the end of the first month four baseball diamonds were ready for use and well booked up with games. Without delay the Sunset Baseball League was organized. The greatest crowd ever assembled at Waterbury gathered at the playground on Independence Day to enjoy a program of field events and a baseball game.

Plans for a community house and play institute were the first steps taken to revive the play spirit at Erie, Pennsylvania. The Erie Institute of Games and Play began with a registration of 384 people representing ninety-eight different organizations, and was a success from every standpoint. The members greeted it as the most democratic gathering ever held in Erie. Games popularized by the Play Institute soon took the entire city by storm, and the director was kept busy conducting classes for children and adults at the schools, churches and neighborhood house every afternoon and evening. An old foundry building was secured and remodelled for a community play house. Furnished in a very attractive adaptation of old English style it admirably meets this requirement.

In a town where there is a large foreign population much can be accomplished through the clubs of various nationalities. They particularly welcome leadership in recreational activities, and so are brought into contact with the community program. The great artistic ability which many of the foreigners possess may be put to valuable use if they are given an opportunity to develop their own ideas. At no time must they feel that the program is superimposed. One feels a peculiar sympathy for the woman of foreign birth who complained, "Everywhere I go they want to learn me something!"

The recreational needs of workers may be most easily learned by studying the way in which they are now spending their leisure time and finding out how they would like to spend it. As one leader has pointed out, it is much easier to begin by promoting activities that everyone is familiar with than those in which very few have ever taken part or those in which everyone has lost interest. A good plan is to have the members of the community or industry fill out cards indicating what they consider to be the important recreation needs of the community and what activities they personally are interested in. One of the first objectives of the leader is to get the people in the community to believe in what he is trying to do and enthusiastic enough to give their support. It is a mistake to wait for ideal conditions to develop a program.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## Recreation as a Function of the Church

Play and friendship go hand in hand. People cannot really play together and not be better friends afterwards. The church is realizing that to create a high and lasting form of friendship among its members it must organize its social as well as its religious life. In so many communities the failure to satisfy the play instinct has left the way open for commercialized amusement to establish itself for profit and with little regard to the moral quality of the recreation offered. Consequently the task of the church in providing interesting healthmaking things for people to do in their leisure time looms larger than ever before.

"People will play, thank God! We may play with them if we will, and thereby help them to realize the best that this instinct has to offer; or we may hold aloof, adopt an attitude of narrow, indiscriminate condemnation or at best of cold indifference, and allow the boys and girls to play on without us and without our sympathetic guidance. If the latter be our choice, we shall have to face the evil results of our policy." Thus speaks a well-known churchman.

In this task of providing recreation the church does not work alone, but its own opportunities are manifold. The direct service of providing recreation under competent supervision in its own building or parish house, the providing of outdoor facilities for athletic games, the active participation in recreational affairs of the community, as well as cooperation with other agencies have already been tried to great advantage by numberless churches.

In the city a better place than the crowded street or alley must be provided for the boys' play; and a better outlet for her social craving than the cheap dance hall must be provided for the girl. The rural church, too, must study its recreational problem. The difficulties in the country are found in the loneliness and barrenness of social life and the lack of leadership. In many country districts the churches and schools are practically the only agencies to which the people can look for social life. The country church, therefore, is often called to be the sole means of recreational grace. Since many rural churches are poor, the cooperation of all the church bodies in the community is necessary to obtain beneficial results.

In considering the recreation needs of its members and deciding what part the church should play in meeting these needs a special

## *RECREATION AS A FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH*

committee will be found almost necessary. Such a committee should include representatives of auxiliary organizations found in the church: as the Ladies' Aid, the Young People's Society, Sunday School, Men's Clubs. In the first place the committee should plan a social gathering intended to bring the church members together. There is an art in conducting the program of such an event so that everybody will participate. If occasionally the church secures skilled leaders to come and personally conduct their programs it will help them to know exactly the best way at another time. It will not always be found practical to plan active recreation in which the children and adults participate together; although an occasional picnic of that sort is often successful. Special provision for the children must be made with activities adopted to the age and sex of the children involved. Play parties when boys and girls can play together may be held by the junior and primary departments. Boys and girls from ten to fifteen should have many of their recreational activities provided separately. In the conducting of children's events a knowledge of children's games is invaluable. If the church, therefore, can send its workers to recreation training classes it will find the social side of its activities more quickly and efficiently developed.

The next most important undertaking of such a recreation committee and of the church as a whole, is to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community. The wise church will not attempt to run counter to commercial houses or to eliminate them, but will help to create public sentiment for properly supervised and conducted commercial recreation. If a community has no up-to-date ordinance governing public amusements, this fact should be known by the people at large. As Mr. Atkinson has said in his book, *The Church and the People's Play*,—"If the dance hall proprietors, managers of pool rooms, owners of the motion-picture shows and others who are furnishing public amusements know that the church people understand the needs of the community and know who is responsible for the kind of amusement that is being furnished, they are very apt to feel that they are accountable to the community for their attitude as well as their action." It has usually been found better for the church to work through agencies already existing in the community, cooperating with them, than it is to attempt to meet the needs of the community wholly through its own efforts.

The field of the church is large, and many churches are reaching

## *RECREATION AS A FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH*

community groups, often outside their own membership, in a way which is going far to promote a broader recreation life. About eighty-five percent of all the Boy Scout patrols in the country are organized in connection with the Sunday Schools. The Camp Fire Girls are coming to be organized in the same way. The Sunday School Athletic and Baseball Leagues are a feature in many cities. If the church is so situated that it can furnish grounds for volley ball, basket ball, tennis and croquet, the promotion of these games is surely one of the best things it can do for the social life of its young people. A few representative church activities, taken from all over the country, may show what a real part recreation is already taking in the community through the church.

The First Presbyterian Church of Hornell, New York, successfully carried on motion pictures for three years. Their evening service was distinctly a religious meeting, including music, responsive reading, prayer, a short sermon and two reels of pictures. The church was always crowded and often large numbers were turned away. No collections were ever taken, all expenses being met by the church. These expenses were found to be five dollars an evening including the cost and transportation of two reels and the lighting of the church. The whole outfit originally cost about four hundred dollars.

The greatest difficulty in providing motion pictures is the procuring of suitable films. There are four or five distributing houses in New York City which supply a fair number of religious pictures. The New Era Movement, however, has gathered nearly all available information as to eastern distributing firms dealing in religious and educational pictures—a list of these firms with a brief statement of what they are prepared to furnish will be supplied any person upon request without charge if addressed to the New Era Movement, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

In Winnetka, Ill., a regular motion picture entertainment is given by the Congregational Church on two evenings a week, showing high grade films at an admission fee of ten cents. An investigation into the recreational facilities of the town by this same church had found the boys and girls of the Sunday School period sadly in need of wholesome amusement. The church, therefore, adopted a plan of graded recreation work, in their own gymnasium, based upon the needs of all classes and avoiding unnecessary duplication. Leadership was furnished and public interest raised which culminated in the establishment of a Community Board of Recreation,

## *RECREATION AS A FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH*

representing the church, the school board, the park board and other organizations. This all resulted from the church's serving the community.

In the community of Gassell Park, Los Angeles, there were no playgrounds for a great distance and the school was not equipped so the church offered its building and grounds to the Playground department. The church is now paying for a director who, besides organizing the playground, has organized classes and evening recreation activities. A similar petition was sent to the City Library department asking that a branch library be put in the community church. Out of this grew the Gassell Park Community Center Association with its headquarters at the Community Church.

There is a little town in northern Illinois called Roscoe, which is so small there isn't even a "movie" or a saloon. A short time ago (1919) the only place men and boys could get together was in the back of the grocery store or in the station waiting room. Because they had nothing to do, they abused the waiting room so much that the people of the town closed it. In the town is a nice brick church with a basement for semi-annual church suppers and an occasional "social." When the new pastor came he began by visiting the nearest Y. M. C. A., learning how to play games and taking measurements to put up tables for games. The cost was the only objection raised by the church officials against making the basement a recreation center for all the town. This objection was overcome by the pastor who with the help of a few men, actually made all the tables which were necessary for the games. In a few weeks, the Roscoe Social Center was opened. An odd pine table stands at one end of the basement. One for que-boulette stands beside it. A shuffleboard is at the other end. All of these fold into small space when the basement is needed for other purposes. Checkers and other small games are also provided. Activities are not to be confined to the basement. Tennis courts and outdoor paraphernalia in the vacant lot behind the church and a new kind of church yard are being planned.

All over the country, instances may be found where churches use their buildings and grounds as playgrounds. This is true in Troy, N. Y.; Rochester, N. Y.; San Francisco, Cal.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; New Haven, Conn.; Lansing, Mich.; Clinton, Mass., and many others. The West End Presbyterian parish house in New York City is a good example of the best kind of building to meet the recreation needs of the church and community. It is a three-

## *RECREATION AS A FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH*

story building with a basement used as a social room, above which is the chapel with gallery and parlor, a floor devoted to several parlors and a gymnasium with gallery and club room. The roof is screened in for a playground or tennis court. And the best of it is that this building is really carrying out its purpose and meeting a much-felt need.

In all parts of the country churches with equipment are opening their doors to the people in general for recreation. As in Michigan, one church opened its basement as a rest room for the young people participating in winter sports nearby. Girls' groups, organized for classes of various kinds, find their homes in the parish houses of churches in New Jersey, Long Island, Oregon and many other states. Boy Scouts similarly meet in church houses. Buffalo, New York, contains a Presbyterian church, dormant for four years, which with the coming of a new pastor has taken a new lease of life.

The noon hour every day now finds its splendid parish house humming with the activity of young life. A cafeteria supplies the need of the neighborhood for good food at small cost. Volley ball courts, pool and smoking rooms, games of all kinds and dancing on week days draw into this church center Jews, Catholics and Protestants. Community singing and moving pictures on Sundays make the church attractive to the people of this boarding house district. The trustees, after a visit to the church house at the noon hour, so heartily approved of the work that \$12,000 have been appropriated to carry it on and Community Service, which first inaugurated the program at this church, has been asked to find an all-round director who can give full time to the activities there.

In Rochester, N. Y., the Brick Church organized an institute which, in 1910, built a new building with gymnasium, swimming pool, bowling alleys, club rooms and various recreation and educational facilities, besides dormitory room for eighty men. From the beginning, an extensive boys' work was conducted in the form of an evening boys' club and work for girls soon grew rapidly. A bible study club of the leading young women has resulted in one of the women starting a working girls' club. Gymnasium classes and club groups furnish recreation and good fellowship while classes in household arts develop a desire for self-improvement. Dramatic entertainments are popular and so are regular Saturday evening dances, held in the institute building with an adequate number of chaperons from the church people. Frequently a dancing teacher of

## *RECREATION AS A FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH*

high standard is present to make suggestions and give demonstrations of the best form in dancing and to illustrate new steps. A vacation school, conducted under expert teachers, both employed and volunteer, offers games, athletics, outdoor hikes, nature study and instruction in useful arts.

Morgan Chapel in Boston conducts a men's club where light refreshments may be bought, and where smoking, games, reading and conversation while away the time. The basement is equipped with baths. The pastor of the First Congregational Church in Sandusky, Ohio, took gymnasium instruction himself, and trained his helpers. St. Timothy Chapel, Philadelphia, has a settlement house and a summer camp. The Episcopal Church of San Francisco, Cal., the Protestant churches of Los Angeles and at least a dozen churches in the middle West have settlement houses or gymnasiums.

A very small church often faces the problem of keeping the new comers of divergent elements interested. The Lomenauk United Presbyterian Church, near Sandwich, Ill., has emphasized the observance of national holidays and made them community affairs drawing large crowds from all directions. On one Fourth of July, there was an attendance of four thousand with a program of sports and games on the church lawn and in an adjoining field were exercises appropriate to the occasion.

A parish house, a trade school for boys, a cottage colony and a summer camp were offered to the people of St. George's church of New York City. The parish house, open daily until eleven o'clock, has a rifle room in the basement and an arsenal in the tower. It contains, besides, a kindergarten room, cooking school, library, tea room, men's club rooms and boys' club rooms.

In some places it has been found expedient for the churches of a community to federate their recreation resources. Sixteen churches in Delaware joined in a Church Athletic Recreation League, organized by the Community Service physical director, and in Kentucky a Methodist Episcopal church has bought a lot for a community center and playground, this lot to be paid for by the Methodist Centenary Movement. The Ministerial Alliance as a body is backing the playground and community center movement. In New York two of the larger churches have offered to Community Service their gymnasiums and equipment for the use of disabled ex-service men taking vocational training under the Federal Board of Vocational Education.

## *RECREATION AS A FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH*

One of the largest church institutions in the world is the People's Palace in Jersey City. It was built by Joseph Milbank at a cost of \$75,000, but is doing a recreation service worth much more than that amount each year. The institute contains billiard and pool rooms, bowling alleys, a theatre, a library and a gymnasium. Across the street is the church but no one is obliged to go there. "Play here," says Mr. Scudder, "or pray there, but keep away from the saloon and the gambling den."

What are the net results from such recreational activities in churches? In Toledo, Ohio, the effects were named as increased regularity in Sunday School attendance, honesty in play and many additions to the church—seventy-five percent of the young people being members. Countless other churches are ready to attest a visible quickening of church life due to the intelligent planning for the leisure hours of those people whom the church wished to attract. And fortunately many of these churches are coming to see in these recreation activities something more than a way of increasing attendance. They are being recognized as a direct means in building character.

### **SUGGESTIONS BY H. A. ATKINSON FOR ANY WIDE-AWAKE CHURCH**

Equip one or more rooms in the church which shall be open to the various clubs in the community for club purposes.

Install a pool table, a bowling alley and tables for other games.

Organize a brass or string band to give free entertainments in the church.

Assume responsibility for the teaching of wholesome games that may be played in the home and outside of the home, but in close connection with it, providing hours and places of amusement where children and parents can play together.

Supply volunteer helpers to the community's recreation agencies.

Help to organize and promote play in the streets.

Provide tennis courts and baseball diamonds.

Arrange with the city authorities for sidewalks in certain blocks to be open for roller skating or coasting.

Promote church athletics, baseball, basketball, volley ball leagues and offer a banner or prize for the best athletic club.

Maintain boating, yachting and fishing clubs in the vicinity adjacent to navigable water.

Arrange for summer camps and camping trips.

## *COMMUNITY SERVICE IN CHICAGO*

Plan tramping trips under the right guidance and direction for groups of different ages in the church.

Secure a lease upon a vacant lot in the community and provide the means and direction to the young people for gardening.

Provide an adequate program for the various holiday celebrations by pageants, entertainments, picnics and such other exercises as appeal to the good judgment of the church.

Cooperate in promoting the Boy Scout activities, paying special attention to the social fraternal features of the work.

Organize and maintain Camp Fire groups for girls.

Help to provide some form of recreation for the community on Sunday afternoon.

Urge, work and demand in the name of humanity the Saturday half-holiday for all.

Organize a group of baseball enthusiasts in the church and together rent one of the large boxes at the league baseball park. Let this be known as the box belonging to the church. Other organizations follow this plan and their members always sit together at the games. Why not the church?

---

## **Community Service In Chicago**

LOUISE BROWNE writes in *The Chicago Evening Post* of May the Twenty-sixth: There was a lot of talk about community service in the Hotel La Salle yesterday. Members of the advertising council of the Chicago Association of Commerce gravely considered the problem of keeping this enormous city, this prodigious, brawling braggart, this huge delightful child among the tired old cities of the world, happy, amused and contented with itself.

Some wise person has discovered that the giant child doesn't know how to play properly. Chicago must have something amusing to do in its leisure time when it isn't working, or sleeping, or eating. It can't be expected to spend all its splendid energy butchering hogs, handling freight and keeping the middle west efficient, lively and up-to-date.

---

The first speaker on this important domestic problem was Marshall Field 3d, president of the organization called Community Service of Chicago. He recalled the observations made by a certain

## *COMMUNITY SERVICE IN CHICAGO*

thoughtful policeman when the grand jury was investigating the activities of the so-called Reds.

This policeman reminded the authorities that saloons had been taken away from the people of Chicago, that racing had also been taken away from them, and that prize fighting had been put far beyond their reach. And, since nothing whatever had been offered as a substitute for these things, he suggested that many of the people who seemed to be wild and naughty Reds might really be nothing worse than disgruntled citizens in need of some interesting occupation to fill their leisure hours.

"Community service was organized because we need something to take the place of the saloons and other things which have been taken away," said Mr. Field.

He told the story of the transformation of the War Camp Community council into an organization which would interest itself in the leisure-time needs of the whole citizenry of Chicago.

Community Service of Chicago, which has its headquarters at 108 South La Salle street, began operations February 1, 1920. Its slogan is "Revealing Chicago to Itself." Because there are lots of good things to see and do in this city, and lots of people who know nothing whatever about them, Community Service has issued an interesting and extraordinarily comprehensive booklet that enumerates the opportunities here in Chicago for leisure time activities of all sorts, from archery to zoology—there's something for every letter of the alphabet.

---

Eugene T. Lies, secretary and executive director of Community Service in Chicago, tried to prove that the leisure-time problem was as old as the world. He intimated that Adam and Eve might have used their leisure time a little more pleasurable than they did. They might have interested themselves in athletics, for instance; or they might have done a little knitting, instead of interfering with that apple tree and getting us all into trouble.

Community service, Mr. Lies says, is trying to take the "wreck" out of recreation, and trying to put "unity" into community. It will promote the spirit of neighborliness and further the association of people of all kinds for pleasurable, stimulating and profitable purposes.

And Community Service will make people realize that Chicago is a good place to live in. "In the minds of foreign-born citi-

## *COMMUNITY SERVICE IN CHICAGO*

"zens," said Mr. Lies, "loyalty to the city means loyalty to the country. And loyalty to the city can be built up most sanely by proving to people that the community in which they live offers those satisfactions which enrich life and take away its drabness and dullness. We are trying to tempt people to have a good time; we are offering programs, leadership and counsel. A good deal of this work can be done through existing organizations and institutions; we are trying to help people to help themselves."

Mr. Lies invited employers of labor to consider the advantages of Community Service. "When workers slump to the factory door in the morning without any interest in life or in their jobs, doesn't that have its effect upon production?" he asked. "Isn't production affected by what workers do in their leisure time?"

---

Miss Mary McDowell, head of the Chicago University settlement, made a short speech. She said she wished all the business men in Chicago would ask her questions about the need for Community Service in this great city of ours, which is the third largest Polish city in the world and the second largest Bohemian city. It seems that 80 per cent of the people in Chicago are of foreign-born parentage.

"If we really knew our city, we would love it instead of being afraid of certain sides of it," she said enthusiastically. "Now it is about time that we were being thrilled by the problem that nobody else has ever had. Fear will never in this world solve that problem; nothing will solve it but faith and a constructive program."

"I believe in neighborliness," she continued, "We need to sing and play together, and we need very much to use the dramatic instinct which we all have. It will be a great day when the English-speaking people learn to sing the wonderful national hymn of the Poles, and that lovely thing the Czechoslovaks sing. That is a message that will go straight to the hearts of the foreign-born people as no message from any Americanization committee will ever go. We can sing Americanism much easier than we can manufacture it by mechanical or pedagogical methods."

When the last speaker sat down a buzz of conversation arose all over the room. Everyone was interested; everyone had something to say to his neighbor about community service.

## Recreation Centers and Playgrounds of the West Chicago Park System

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its organization, the West Chicago Park Board has issued a pamphlet giving in detail a description of the activities carried on at various recreation centers. By issuing the information in this form, it is intended to make it more accessible and give it wider dissemination than can be done in a regular annual report.

Chicago's first step in the fuller use of park and landscape areas was taken in 1895 with the opening of the Douglas Park Natatorium and Gymnasium. With the West Side's continued increase in population there arose a need for recreation facilities in congested districts and this led to the establishment of centers for all seasons of the year and for a field house having facilities for indoor recreation.

The first of these centers was opened in the spring of 1908. The second soon followed, and in 1914 five centers, fully equipped, were opened to the public. In addition to these fully equipped centers, nine others are now in operation and one is under construction. These latter carry on as extensive a program as their equipment allows. Certain activities are recognized as common functions throughout the system and there is a definite uniform program of work followed in each center. To a certain extent, however, the details of administration and the arrangement of the daily program have been left to each center for adjustment. The variation in living conditions and economic standards in the different neighborhoods has demanded this and it is felt quite strongly that the great success and popularity of the West Park System is in no small degree due to the ready adjustment of the forms of activities to meet constantly changing conditions.

**Administration** A superintendent of recreation is in charge of the West Park System and is responsible for the conduct and administration of all centers, playgrounds and pools. Each center is in charge of a director who serves in the same relation as the principal of the school. He is in full charge of employees, and of the promotion, maintenance and direction of activities, subject to the Superintendent of Recreation.

All employees are selected through competitive civil service examinations. The number of employees required for the maintenance

## *RECREATION CENTERS—WEST CHICAGO PARK SYSTEM*

of each fully equipped center averages about twenty-one during the winter months to thirty-four during the summer.

Funds for the maintenance of the West Park System are raised by means of a yearly tax levy equal to a certain percentage of the total tax valuation levied upon the property in the West Chicago Park District. No charge is made or permitted in connection with any activity.

### **Facilities and Equipment**

Although there are minor variations in the facilities offered in the five fully equipped centers, the following are common to each:

#### **OUTDOOR**

Large play or athletic field (used for skating and tobogganing in the winter)

Separate gymnasiums for men and women

Swimming pool, with adjacent dressing quarters and shower rooms

Tennis courts

Children's playground

Children's gardens

#### **INDOOR**

Field house, with assembly hall

Refreshment and rest room

Separate gymnasiums for men and women

Separate locker and shower rooms for men and women

Separate club rooms for men and women

Library

Children's playroom and musicians' balcony, with all the necessary accessories, such as store rooms, boiler rooms, wash rooms

### **Seasons of Operation**

The outdoor or summer season begins about the first of May and extends to the middle of October. During the school vacation period, the ac-

tivities are open from 9:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m. and the field house is open regularly from 10:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m. The winter season extends from October 15th to April 30th. During this time all the indoor activities are in operation and two outdoor activities, skating and tobogganing. The field house is open regularly from 12 o'clock noon until ten in the evening.

### **Athletic Fields and Outdoor Gatherings**

During the summer months the athletic field is used by the children for games and by adults for football, baseball, soccer, volley ball and basketball. Athletic and prize meets for which the Park Commissioners

## *RECREATION CENTERS—WEST CHICAGO PARK SYSTEM*

offer individual and group prizes are regularly held. Concerts are given at one or more of the parks each evening during July and August. Exhibitions of athletic, track and field sports are given from time to time as well as lantern slide and motion picture shows, pageants, play festivals and holiday celebrations.

### **Ice Skating Rink**

During the winter months each of the play fields is flooded for ice skating. The ice is given careful daily attention, cleaned of snow and sprayed and each park is provided with a heated shelter. Small slides, ten feet in height, have been erected on most of the grounds and tobogganing has become very popular with the children.

### **Outdoor Gymnasium**

Large separate outdoor gymnasiums for men and women are open throughout the favorable season. These are adequately lighted to encourage evening attendance. A complete gymnastic equipment is installed. The work in general is carried on in a free and informal manner, although by means of a daily and weekly program certain activities which are recognized as a standard are encouraged. An instructor is on duty at all times.

### **Swimming Pools**

The open air swimming pool in each center is the principal feature of enjoyment during the summer season. Ordinarily four days in the week are reserved for men and boys, two days for women and girls; at one center there are separate pools for men and women. Rigid sanitary measures are taken and a suit, towel, soap, locker and shower bath are furnished to each visitor without charge. The latest pool to be constructed has a water surface of 26,000 square feet.

All pools are operated on the "batch" plan and accommodate from five to eight hundred persons at a time. Aquatic tests are held at some of the pools and lessons in the common swimming strokes are given. Interpark aquatic meets are also held, though none of this work is allowed to interfere with the regular operation of the pools.

### **Tennis Courts**

These are a feature at several of the centers and meet a need which the more strenuous activities fail to supply. Tennis tournaments are encouraged and are growing more and more popular each year.

### **Children's Playgrounds and Gardens**

The playgrounds, which are open only to children under ten years of age, are equipped with wading pools, sand courts, shelters, swings and other safe

## *RECREATION CENTERS—WEST CHICAGO PARK SYSTEM*

and suitable devices. These are in charge of trained kindergarten and recreation instructors. Older children and adults who come with the little children are admitted as caretakers, and it is not uncommon to have as many as 600 persons in attendance in the evenings when the adults come to rest and watch the children play.

Practical results are obtained through the so-called children's gardens which vary from 4 x 5 to 6 x 15 feet in size. These are allotted to children over ten years of age. Several members of one family, however, often engage in the care and cultivation of these plots. The Park Commissioners furnish seeds, the services of a gardener and a recreation instructor. Persons are required to provide their own garden tools. The children's work is carried on in classes and adults are required to come at stated hours. Contests in crop raising and care of the garden are encouraged by the awarding of prizes at the end of the season.

### **INDOOR ACTIVITIES**

**Assembly Halls** The assembly halls of the West Park System are in use practically every evening and many afternoons for dances, lectures, concerts, entertainments, games, singing and storytelling. During the winter season the park management furnishes a series of entertainments to which people are admitted without charge, and stereopticon lectures by prominent persons are presented for children in the afternoons and for adults in the evenings. The program further includes holiday celebrations, exhibits, dramatic entertainments and social affairs conducted for small groups. These activities are very popular and the assembly halls are centers of community life at all times.

**Music Activities** Each center is provided with a music instructor who is in the regular classified service of the West Park System and has charge of the music organizations formed and promoted at the park where he is stationed. These organizations consist of a children's chorus, a junior orchestra, an adult chorus and a senior orchestra. Bands have also been organized at some centers. These amateur musicians give occasional concerts during the indoor season. Community singing was popular at the centers last year.

**Indoor Gymnasium** During the period when the outdoor gymnasiums are closed, the work is carried on in the separate indoor gymnasiums for men and women. These

## *RECREATION CENTERS—WEST CHICAGO PARK SYSTEM*

are a part of the equipment of each center and are in charge of trained instructors, with formal registration and definite class programs including free and organized games, tactics and drills, calisthenics, apparatus work, folk and gymnastic dancing. Intra-park competitions are held from time to time.

Shower rooms are open daily to the general public and in addition are used in connection with the gymnasium. These baths which were first regarded as a form of recreation, are now looked upon by the working men and women as a necessity, and are producing a vital hygienic and moral effect, not only upon the people, but upon the whole physical and moral tone of the community.

**Club Organizations** Club activities form one of the biggest and most interesting features of work in the West Park

Recreation Centers. These clubs have a variety of objects; social, athletic, industrial, civic, patriotic, educational, benevolent, charitable, agricultural, musical, dramatic and recreational. All are closely identified with the interests of the center. In one instance they aid in running a monthly paper and in another they are federated into a council for the promotion of a wider and better use of the center.

Some of the clubs are supervised by a paid employee of the center and some by persons paid by the group themselves, but most of them are self-directed and are very successful. Each club has its monthly dues, and in one of the centers a certain social club has a treasury fund of \$200.

**Libraries** At each of the fully equipped centers there is provided a reading room and a circulating branch of the Chicago Public Library. The circulation of

books at one center averages about 50,000 a year and the attendance at each branch varies between 50,000 and 100,000. The Library Board furnishes a librarian and all books and reading matter. The Park Commissioners provide the room, light, heat and maintenance. An arrangement between the recreation center and the public schools provides for visits of school children to the libraries on certain mornings in the week when the facilities are available for their exclusive use. Lectures are also given on cataloguing and numbering, and instruction in the method of finding books and returning them to their proper places.

**Play and Recreation Rooms** The play and recreation room is in charge of a person who possesses social qualifications and training as well as ability as a kindergarten and

## *WHAT WE DID ON A SUMMER PLAYGROUND*

recreation instructor. The program includes kindergarten and free play sessions for children under nine years of age, table game sessions for boys and girls and young men and women, classes in sewing, embroidery, cooking, millinery, raffia work, story hour sessions, classes in social dancing and various other activities. These are promoted as recreation, although the educational object is given full consideration. The demand for the activities is greater than the supply and the play and recreation room fosters and maintains a wholesome play spirit in the center.

Various other activities are promoted by the centers as the need arises. They assume a large share in all community entertainments and their value to the community is considered inestimable. The recreation centers are a vital force in physical and moral health, mental, spiritual and bodily growth, and in personal and civic welfare.

---

### **What We Did on a Summer Playground in Chicago**

GENEVIEVE TURNER HOLMAN

#### **III**

**The Story Hour** All the stories used in sandcourt and dramatic play which were not already familiar to the children, were told in the story period. But the subjects of the story period itself were by no means confined to the subjects for story and dramatic play. Because we had only one story hour each day, we adapted the stories told to the interests of children from eight to ten years. We used many of the less familiar fairy stories and folk stories of Eastern Europe, of India and of Japan.

For the older boys and girls we read the beginning of longer tales which they finished reading for themselves. We borrowed books on our cards from the Public Library and the children themselves brought books. In this way we were able to have on hand a large number of books to lend. They were in constant use by the older boys in their rest periods after strenuous baseball games. At almost any hour, one would find two or three boys in various shady spots lying flat on the ground with their heads propped on their hands, each reading a book. Had the books not been on the playground, they would simply have rested and then gone on with

## *WHAT WE DID ON A SUMMER PLAYGROUND*

the game. We felt that this "Library" was a valuable part of our summer program.

**Forming Clubs** We planned two clubs, the Paper Doll Club and the Doll Club, but the former absorbed the latter. It was not a club in the formal sense of having officers. Anyone might join the group on any one day as one might join any other game. One girl was given charge of dividing into a penny's worth portions the paper which was purchased in large sheets. Another girl took charge of the patterns. Another spread newspapers on the grass where the group was stationed to collect the scraps. The paper dolls were purchased ready-made, but the girls made all the costumes for them from our own patterns. Each girl had a pasteboard box in which she kept her own material, paste, scissors, patterns and dresses. There was competition to see who could have the most complete wardrobe at the end of the season. The wardrobe included not only school and party dresses but also a kimono, a bathing suit and, of course, a playground costume of bloomers and a middy blouse.

For the Doll Club we had planned to have a period for sewing for real dolls belonging to the girls which they could bring from home but before it was organized, the enthusiasm over costuming the tiny sandcourt dolls began, and as the sandcourt dolls were dressed out of bits of colored paper left over from the larger paper dolls, the work fitted in nicely with that of the Paper Doll Period and became a part of it. For the new children who came each day and for those who had no paper dolls there was always sandcourt dolls to make costumes for.

**Hikes and Excursions** Hikes and excursions were planned as a once-a-week event. Trips were made to bathing beaches, to some of the all year round recreation centers and to various places of interest. We did not have Hare and Hound Chases as we had for other playgrounds through the fields and woods of neighboring suburbs for our program was very full and such chases really belong to later autumn.

Following is a summary of the activities used:

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR A SUMMER PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN TWELVE AND UNDER**

#### *Activities with Apparatus*

##### *"Stunts" on ladders:*

1. Ascend and descend, running step

## *WHAT WE DID ON A SUMMER PLAYGROUND*

2. Ascend and descend, close step
3. Ascend one way, descend another
4. Ascend and descend, alternate hand and foot coming down at same time
5. Ascend and descend, foot and hand on same side coming down at same time
6. Ascend one way, descend another
7. Ascend any of these ways, descend side-saddle
8. Ascend and descend on under side of ladder in any of above ways
9. (For straight back with curve at waist) Step on rung with right foot. Put left through between the second and third above, grasp side of ladder with elbows well out. Lower body until chin touches rung even with it. Continue this on up
10. Hang on under side of ladder and drop in good landing position
11. "Pull up" or chinning
12. Inverted back-lying, grasp ladders with toes. Flex trunk to touch toes with hands
13. From same position somersault backward
  - (a) With abdominal support
  - (b) Without abdominal support
14. Club one-half way up, head through first; hang by knees
  - (a) With toe support
  - (b) Without toe support
  - (c) Turn over through
15. Club one-half way up, feet through first; hang by knees
  - (a) With toe support
  - (b) Without toe support
  - (c) Turn over through
16. Stand in back of ladder. Grasp rung head high. Bring feet through and slide down
17. Ascend walking up, arms out horizontal. Trunk erect as in ordinary walking
18. Ascend and descend same way
19. Ascend, turn round without touching and descend same way
20. Up ladders—cross over—slide down poles
21. From crook hanging position
  - (a) alternate knee stretch (forward)

## *WHAT WE DID ON A SUMMER PLAYGROUND*

- (b) both knees
  - (c) leg parting
22. (More Difficult) Monkey crawl descending (Coming down head first, hands alternating)

### *"Stunts" on Slanting Poles:*

1. Forward somersault
2. Climbing by hands—up (a) over hand grasp (b) under hand grasp
3. Climbing by hands keeping feet together, toes pointed
4. Swing feet over hands to lie inverted with each leg along a beam
5. Forward and back somersault
6. Birds' nest

### *"Stunts" on Ropes:*

1. Climb up, slide down
2. Climb up, climb down
3. Climb up rope, slide down pole

### *"Stunts" on Poles:*

1. Climb up, slide down
2. Climb up, climb down
3. Climb up, slide down rope

### *"Stunts" on Swings:*

1. Turn over forward
2. Inverted hang with knees straight and legs along rope
3. Turn over forward and back

### *"Stunts" on Giant Stride—with vault over cross bar of high jump standards:*

1. Three turns each at height chosen
2. Elimination to get highest jumper
3. Sides chosen for relay game; point for side when member of a team clears a height

### *Relay Games on Apparatus:*

1. Teams are chosen and the two teams compete in doing any of the above stunts assigned by the instructor. A team receives a point for the success of each member.

## *WHAT WE DID ON A SUMMER PLAYGROUND*

2. Two teams compete for speed up and down ladders, poles, or ropes in any prescribed way.

### *Game on Playground Slide:*

Teams are chosen and that one wins whose members have each raced up and down and are back in place first

### *Tag Games on Apparatus:*

1. Hand Tag
2. Wood Tag
3. Iron Tag

### *Use of Apparatus as Penalty Stunts for Return of Forfeits:*

(No one but the play leader should assign penalties which are to be stunts performed on the apparatus. The play leader must ask the one holding the forfeits whether a particular forfeit belongs to boy or girl, large or small.)

#### *Penalties*

- (1) Assign any of the "Stunts" on the apparatus listed above
- (2) Send two on a race to run up and down the ladders, up the oblique poles hand over hand and slide down, up ladders and slanting poles down vertical poles on ropes
- (3) Send an older girl or boy to swing children in a certain section of the rope swings five or ten times
- (4) Send an older boy or girl with a younger child for fun on the slide or see-saws
- (5) Send barefoot boys racing through wading pool.

### *Dramatic Play on Apparatus:*

1. Playing Fire Department: engine house, the slide, burning building the top of apparatus holding swings and poles; hospital, the see-saws
2. Playing Cowboy—cowboys, ponies and ropes

### *Organized Team Games*

1. Playground baseball
2. Indoor baseball (outdoors)
3. Kick ball
4. Long ball

## *WHAT WE DID ON A SUMMER PLAYGROUND*

5. Dodge ball
6. Captain ball

### *Games to Develop Skill for Baseball*

1. Baseball throw
  - (a) Underhand throw—Measure distance with 50 yd. tape, keep record
  - (b) Overhand throw—Measure distance with 50 yd. tape, keep record
  - (c) Pitching—Measure distance with 50 yd. tape, keep record
2. Turns at batting 5 hits each. Measure distance with 50 yd. tape; keep record
3. Relay Games—two sides—(a) Pitch back and forth. Keep track of misses.
4. Piggy: (a) Plain (b) Progressive (c) Trick
5. Grass ball
6. Teacher

### *Games to Develop Skill for Basket Ball*

1. Relay Games  
Two circles—Hot potato
  - (a) Pass to right three times (or five times)
  - (b) Pass to left
  - (c) Chest throw right
  - (d) Chest throw left
  - (e) One in center, throws to anyone
2. Basket ball throw (Individual) Measure distance. Keep individual record
3. Basket ball throw (A Relay Game) Two sides chosen, three lines drawn on ground; five points for throwing beyond farthest, three points for next; one point for nearest
4. Pass ball relay
5. Stride ball relay
6. Under and over relay

### *Races*

1. 50 yard dash
2. Race around all apparatus (as forfeit penalty)
3. Race around wading pool (as forfeit penalty)
4. Race up and down ladder (as forfeit penalty)
5. Race up and down oblique poles (as forfeit penalty)
6. Race up and down ropes and climbing poles (as forfeit penalty)

## WHAT WE DID ON A SUMMER PLAYGROUND

7. Race up and down slide
8. One-legged race
9. Three-legged race
10. Sack race
11. Potato (egg) race
12. Chariot race
13. Wheelbarrow

### *Relays*

1. Plain
2. Shuttle
3. Pass Ball
4. Stride ball
5. Under and over
6. Kick ball relay
7. Snatch towel
8. Black and white for points
9. Clap in and clap out for points
10. Hot potato relay
11. Relay race around pool
12. Relay race up and down apparatus
  - (a) Playground slide
  - (b) Ladders
  - (c) Ropes
  - (d) Poles
13. Number Relay

### *Miscellaneous Active Games*

1. Spud
2. Name ball
3. Call ball
4. Three deep
5. Four run
6. Three broad
7. Dangerous Neighbor
8. Poison
9. Black and white
  - (a) Changing side
  - (b) Counting points
10. Clap in and out
  - (a) Changing side
  - (b) Counting points
11. Bull in ring
12. Tag ball
13. Squirrel in hollow
14. Partner tag
15. Angle tag
16. Broncho tag
17. Mount tag
18. Slap jack
19. Last couple out
20. New York
21. Fruit vender
22. Circle tag
23. Jumping rope
24. Crossing brook
25. Bird catcher
26. Black Tom

27. Black man
28. Tug of war
29. Chautauqua ball

### *Circle Games, Singing Games and Folk Dances*

1. Adam had seven sons
2. Muffin Man
3. Bingo
4. Seven jumps
5. Circus
6. Briar Rose Bud
7. Farmer in the dell (ending with Bull in ring)
8. Itiskit, Itaskit
9. Change towels
10. Sally Waters
11. Lassie
12. Cat and rat
13. Bluebird
14. Mulberry bush
15. Rig-a-jig
16. Looby loo
17. London Bridge
18. Mother May I go out to play?
19. Sunday, Monday
20. Mother tea kettle
21. Rich man, poor man
22. Swedish ring
23. Jolly is the miller
24. A hunting we will go
25. Pop goes the weasel
26. Virginia reel
27. Ace of diamonds
28. Bleking
29. Highland schottische
30. Swedish weaving (unfinished)
31. Ruffy Tufty (English)
32. Jennie pluck pears (English)
33. French reel
34. Ostendaise (Belgian)
35. Italian shepherdess
36. Over there (Chalif)
37. Dixie (Chalif)

### *Sandcourt Plays*

1. Ali Baba and forty thieves
2. Hansel and Gretel
3. Sleeping Beauty
4. Snow White and seven dwarfs
5. Cinderella
6. Noah
7. Moses
8. Joseph and his brethren
9. Red Riding Hood
10. Three bears
11. Teenie weenies

## WHAT WE DID ON A SUMMER PLAYGROUND

### Miscellaneous Sandcourt Plays

1. Building the bastile
2. The playground
3. Calumet playground
4. Calumet beach
5. 51st Bathing beach—With dolls as bathers, locker attendants
6. 55th boulevard
7. Grand Boulevard between 47th and 50th Streets
8. The trenches (as seen at Exposition)
9. A city
10. A farm
11. Ice skating rink
12. Aviation field
13. The boat house
14. Playing house
15. Playing grocery
16. Playing bank

### Active Dramatic Plays

*Playing Stories*—using entire playground for setting with the children moving freely about.

1. Snow White  
Cave for dwarfs' mining—  
Sandcourt. Dwarf home—  
beyond the bushes. The  
king's palace—benches be-  
yond trees
2. Puss in Boots
3. Sister of the mountain
4. Little red hen and grain of  
wheat
5. Ali Baba
6. Wake up story
7. Jack, the Giant Killer

### Miscellaneous Dramatic Plays

Fire (See under Apparatus)  
Cowboy and Indian (See under Apparatus)  
Playing House with table and dishes  
and lunch

### Quiet Games for Hot Days

1. Have you seen my sheep?  
(End with forfeit for activity  
at end)

2. Pomma Wonga (Indian Game of Skill)
3. Up Jenkins
4. Checker in box
5. Quoits
6. Ghosts (children)
7. Grocery Store (children)
8. Going to Europe
9. Riddles
10. Bird, beast, fish
11. Finding store
12. Guess grass blade
13. Sardine
14. Turning Hose on children
15. Guessing games and stunts of all sorts

### Books Read and Lent

- Arabian Knights  
Fairy and Folk Stories of Eastern Europe  
Fairy and Folk Stories of Western Europe  
Fairy and Folk Stories of India  
Fairy and Folk Stories of Japan  
Fairy and Folk Stories of Denmark  
Fairy and Folk Stories of Favorite Fairy Stories  
The Oz Books  
Many others of which we kept no record

### Clubs

1. Paper doll
2. Doll club

### Hikes and Excursions

- To McKinley, Sherman, and Cornell Recreation Centers  
To Willow Springs  
To Fifty-first Street Bathing Beach  
To Calumet Bathing Beach  
To Ida Noyes Hall

### Patriotic Exercises

- Bugle call  
Salute to flag  
Song  
Marching

## Dramatic Activities in Community Service

Community Service in Chicago under the direction of Miss Dorothy Meadows has produced *Beyond the Gate*, a morality play by Irene Gene Crandall; *Twig of Thorn* by Marie J. Warren; *The Burglar* by Margaret Cameron; *The Kleptomaniac* by Margaret Cameron; *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals* by Barrie; *The Taming of the Shrew* by Shakespeare. Also in rehearsal are *The Courtship of Miles Standish* by Eugene W. Presby and *Standish of Standish* by Annie Russell Marble.

In Seattle, Washington, Community Service dramatics are flourishing under the guidance of Mrs. Robert F. Sandall who has taken up drama in the Bible with the Sunday Schools, has made a source-book of costumes with volunteer help and has lectured on the *Servant in the House* by Charles Rann Kennedy and on Percy MacKaye's *Civic Theatre*. Mrs. Sandall has also lectured on *Expression in Pageantry versus The Movies*. Such genuinely literary dramatic fare as readings of *The Happy Prince* and *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde, with music by Liza Lehman have been given for Seattle Community Service, as well as the poems of Tagore with a musical setting. The Pilgrim Players have recently produced *Dust of the Road* by Kenneth Sawyer Goodman. Seattle may well be proud of the standard which is being set. One of the Baptist churches of Seattle has recently produced *Servant in the House*.

Community Service in Cincinnati is planning a Roaming Theatre, and Community Service in Omaha, Nebraska, a Folk Theatre.

Glenn Hughes, formerly in charge of the Playhouse by the Sea, Mt. Carmel, California, now of the English Department, Washington University, is giving advice to several groups of players connected with Community Service in Seattle.

"Everybody's Playhouse," is the delightful title of the new Municipal Community Theatre which Baltimore is to have on its Municipal Recreation Pier. It is to be a folk theatre, a theatre for the people, run at popular prices, and financed by the municipality. This is from all points of view a tremendously important experiment. The theatre is situated in the heart of a densely populated district where twenty-two different nationalities are gathered together. The theatre will offer folk plays for adults; and will also have folk plays for children. There will also be plays that are soundly American written by American authors. The theatre seats

## *IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION*

500 people and is equipped with a portable stage. Its director is Mrs. Adele Nathan, well-known for her work in pageantry at the Vagabond Theatre in Baltimore.

Boston Community Service is furthering the Pilgrim Tercentenary movement under the guidance of Miss Joy Higgins.

New York Community Service and National Headquarters recently united in holding a small exhibit of Pilgrim models and costumes at Lord and Taylor's book shop, New York City. In connection with this, Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin gave a reading from *Golden Numbers* of material having a direct bearing on the Tercentenary Celebration. Work for the Tercentenary Celebration in New York has gone forward in a very practical way. Following the exhibit at Lord & Taylor's, Community Service had a preliminary exhibit in the main branch of the New York Public Library. Next the exhibit was taken to the 58th St. Branch where storytelling was used in connection with it. At Columbia University, Miss Elizabeth Grimball addressed 1500 delegates from the boys' and girls' camps of New England on celebrating the Pilgrim Tercentenary through the use of pageants. Here also two models of Pilgrim stages were shown.

The Washington Irving High School had this exhibit for a week. Other colleges and libraries in New York have sent in requests for the Exhibition; and several cities outside of New York are asking for it as a means of stimulating interest in the celebration, as well as a means toward better citizenship.

---

### **Imaginative Rural Recreation**

#### **V**

CONSTANCE D'ARCY MACKAY, Community Service (Incorporated)

It is difficult to estimate how many rural community theatres exist in the United States at the present writing, for the movement is spreading so rapidly that it is scarcely possible to keep up with it. Anyone interested in the subject must take into account not only the rural theatres which now exist, but the community houses which are potential rural theatres, and the earnest and gifted groups of players, who, lacking a theatre building or even a community house, are hopefully working toward that desired end. Every rural theatre or potential theatre represents in the very

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

deepest sense the community in which it stands. It springs from the people, it is by the people, for the people, of the people; it is the voice of the people themselves. On this account, rural theatres should not be confused with suburban theatres, since each one is the expression of a radically different problem.

This brings up the question as to what constitutes a rural community. One authority says that any town under 10,000 population is a rural town, while another authority states that any town is a rural town which is situated in the heart of a farming district and serves a rural public. Thus even a city of 30,000 people may be a rural town if it is a radial center for rural life. All this goes to prove the difference between a *suburban* theatre and a *rural* theatre; a *suburban* theatre reflects the life of a city near which it is, while a *rural* theatre is rooted in the soil. "And until you have a drama rooted deep in the soil of your community, you will never get your great American play," said St. John Ervine on his recent visit to this country.\*

There is a world of truth in this statement, and it is only one of many reasons why a rural theatre should be taken seriously from an art as well as from a social standpoint. What it has brought and can bring to country living is simply immeasurable. The very fact that a rural community is self-dependent, makes its theatre original and full of initiative. Each rural community theatre has worked out its own problem in its own way, and what has been accomplished is little short of marvelous. In the space of a single article it would be impossible to describe all these theatres, these would-be theatres and these bands of ambitious players. Therefore, those showing the greatest variety, the greatest differentiation in their problems have been selected. From almost every theatre, valuable suggestions can be obtained, either through reading about their choice of plays, their method of erecting or remodeling a building, or other methods of financing such a building when it is remodeled.†

To begin with, each rural community theatre is more than just a theatre; it is the meeting place, the art center of its township, and often of neighboring townships. We have seen in

---

\* St. John Ervine will be remembered as the author of the great successes, *Jane Clegg*, and *John Ferguson*.

† This article deals with indoor community theatres only and does not take up the subject of outdoor rural theatre, of which there are already quite a number in places as far apart as Yankton, S. D., Grand Forks, N. D., Peterborough, N. H., Harrisonburg, Va. and Bethel, Me. Some of these have already been described in the preceding articles.

## *IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION*

a previous article that many towns and villages have no theatre other than the movies: to these the rural community theatre is the one place where articulate drama can be had; it is the place where Christmas community celebrations are planned; where 4th of July and other patriotic celebrations have their beginnings. Rural community theatres are also headquarters for community singing, for community orchestra and chorus work. Drama and music are thus inter-related. Such a theatre raises the dramatic standards of grade schools and high schools; it cooperates with women's clubs, with farmers' wives' clubs, with the grange, with the better elements involved in country fairs. It immensely stimulates the work of the rural libraries. A play by some famous author is given and there is an immediate call for that author's work. Local talent is wakened by the prizes offered for plays, for incidental music, for posters, for costume designs. Groups of players are sent from one town to another, thus knitting up scattered communities in a bond of common interest. The key note that simplicity is beauty is sounded again and again with results seen even in what were once stuffy and over-crowded farm house parlors! Leisure is made creative; vague yearnings for the city are banished when "spare time" becomes "happy and productive." \*

By organizing a Little Theatre as it should be organized, it has been found that it can be run inexpensively without taking too much time or too much effort. Properly managed it can always be self-supporting. Often it is more than self-supporting. It finds itself with enough and to spare. There is not a case where a rural theatre has been unsuccessful, though there have been a few instances where work has been discontinued on account of the great war. Yet even in this instance signs of renewed activity are evident.

One of the most famous rural theatres in the United States, forced to close on account of war conditions, was the Prairie Playhouse of Galesburg, Illinois, a town that is the radial center for more than a dozen agricultural villages that surround it. This Art theatre was noteworthy for the fact that it was remodeled from the White House Saloon, a notorious resort where

---

\* Three of the outstanding rural Theatres of this country, that of Mr. Alfred Arvold at Fargo, N. D. and that of Professor Frederick Koch at Grand Forks and now at Chapel Hill, N. C., have already been discussed in a previous article. But these remarkable rural theatres were established by their respective universities, under *university* leadership.

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

vice, gambling and drinking made its name a synonym for all that was morally blackest in Galesburg. It had even been the reputed scene of a murder. After it was closed by the town authorities it remained vacant for some time. Then it was taken over by three drama enthusiasts, who, for \$2,000 made possible by a subscription audience, remodeled the saloon and installed seats, lights, a box office and a stage. White woodwork replaced the splotched interior of the saloon; green paneled walls and green curtains were delightfully appropriate for the name "Prairie." People came for miles to see the one-act, and occasionally longer plays by American and European dramatists. The scenery was of the simplest, combining beauty and austerity; all the players were volunteer; the properties were loaned by the community. Anything more cooperatively managed than this theatre it would be difficult to imagine.

Still another theatre in a town that can scarcely be called rural as to size, and yet is rural in that it is a radial center in the midst of a farming district, is the Community Theatre of Waterloo, Ia., whose enterprising Director, Carl Glick, is now in New York on leave of absence studying the newer developments in little Metropolitan theatres, in order that Waterloo may profit thereby.

As in the case of the Prairie Playhouse, the Waterloo Community Theatre is organized on a subscription basis. All the players are volunteer; the theatre is in a remodeled church; here the best plays of the modern theatre are produced against a cyclorama of forest green denim curtains. This is the only setting which the theatre can afford; yet it has admirably served its purpose. With different properties it can become a modern drawing room or an ancient palace, and played upon by the right lights, it assumes the depth and density of a forest.

Besides the plays of American and European dramatists which have included such widely different productions as *The Truth* by Clyde Fitch, *Lady Frederick* by Somerset Maugham, *The Learned Ladies* by Moliere, *Mrs. Bumstead-Leigh* by H. J. Smith, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, the poetic plays by Lady Gregory, Yeates, Synge and Dunsany, this theatre has produced thirteen original one-act plays by citizens of Waterloo—plays of such excellent quality that they were later published in well-known magazines.

Many of these one-act plays were taken afield, playing in ad-

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

joining towns such as Cedar Falls, Jusup and LePorte. Occasional productions of light opera in which the musical talent of the community held sway, and the staging of a fine outdoor pageant play—Jeanne D'Arc—were among the activities of this community theatre. Programs are also given for high schools and teachers' training schools.

Says Mr. Glick: "During the past year one hundred and eighteen different people have taken part in the plays. Of this number one person has appeared five times, two others four times, five others three times, and twenty-six have appeared twice. Twenty-one persons have assisted with the music, thirty-five with stage properties, twelve with the programs and advertising, two with costumes, ten with the business management and sale of tickets and eight with the direction of plays, dancing and music. This makes a total of eighty-eight people that have assisted with the productions of plays; of this number, forty-six have not acted in the plays.

"So, one hundred and sixty-four different persons have actively given their efforts and their time to making the plays of the Drama League a success . . . This does not include those many friends who have given us their financial support, their applause, and have loaned us properties, and have helped with their good-will and appreciation." The Waterloo community theatre was the first community theatre in Iowa.

An example of a Parish House used as a theatre is that of the Peter Pan Playhouse of Allendale, New Jersey. On certain weekdays it is transformed from an Episcopal Parish House into a little community theatre. The auditorium seats one hundred people and a subscription basis prevails. Season tickets only are sold. These admit to all performances at the rate of 25 cents a seat. Rigid economy holds sway; yet the settings on the tiny stage are admirable in their atmosphere and simplicity. Neutral backgrounds with great variety in the properties make this inexpensive staging possible. With programs of one-act plays, extraordinarily good entr' act music is provided by local musicians, including the works of such composers as Beethoven, Grieg, Tchaikowsky, Edward German, Arthur Farwell, Horatio Parker and Charles Wakefield-Cadman. Some of the plays produced in this unique theatre have been *The Bishop's Candlesticks* by Norman McKinnel; *Neighbors* by Zona Gale; *The Bear* by Anton Tchekoff and *Rise Up Jenny Smith*, the Drama League's prize play by Rachel Field.

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

Plainfield, New Hampshire, provides an example of a Little Community Theatre constructed from a town hall. An adequate lighting system has been installed; there are dressing rooms for men and women; the auditorium has been painted forest green and white—a noticeably popular combination for rural theatres. The frame of the stage is formed of a wooden lattice painted in soft green which gives a rustic note to the interior. The one deep note of color in the auditorium is the proscenium curtain of ruby velour. The theatre is equipped with three scenes: a plain kitchen-like interior that adapts itself to many uses; a drawing room whose walls are plain and neutral tinted, and a woodland scene of great beauty which could be used for a play requiring a forest setting, (such as *The Woodland Princess*, one of this theatre's best productions) or which could be placed back of the French windows of the drawing room set so that they open on a charming vista. These three scenes are a lesson to all community theatre enthusiasts who are about to equip their town hall, or who find their town halls already equipped with glaring red dining room sets or drawing room sets with splotchy wall paper, or garish woodland sets that should be toned down.

The fascinating possibilities of a barn theatre have been shown by the way in which such a building has been used at Quillcote, the home of Kate Douglas Wiggin at Hollis, Maine. The quaint interior of the barn helps to evoke the spirit of drama. The walls and beams are stained dark brown and the lattice windows a leaf green. Gay Japanese lanterns swing from the broad beams, lending a note of color. There is a level hardwood floor which serves for village dancing, or for games for village children when it is not in service as the floor of a rural theatre. Portable chairs are used, and as the floor is level, the stage is raised some three feet above it. The fact that it is a very tiny stage does not in the least interfere with its usefulness. One-act plays have been staged on it such as *The Beau of Bath* and *Gretna Green*, as well as the delicate poetic fantasies from *Proverbs in Porcelain* such as *Good-night, Babbette*. Authors' readings are held and informal concerts given in this barn to which people come for miles, taxing the capacity of the impromptu auditorium which seats a little less than 100. This miniature playhouse interestingly illustrates what can be done with a barn in a rural district where no heat is required from June to October, and where expenses can be reduced to a minimum.

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

There are numerous methods of financing rural theatres. Sometimes a community forms a company, each member of which owns stock in the theatre.

Brimfield, a town of 600 inhabitants in Peoria County, Illinois, has built the Brimfield Community Theatre at a cost of \$30,000 with a community stock company of 265 stockholders. The shares are limited to four shares at \$25.00 each for any one person. This prevents the control passing into the hands of one person or any small group of individuals who might have a community axe to grind. Stockholders are about equally divided between people who live in Brimfield and the farmers who live in the surrounding territory. The auditorium of the theatre seats 1500 people and the theatre itself has proved such a magnet that it has put new life in the community and a spirit of local pride into the town. This theatre is housed in a community building which by clever manipulation of floor space can provide room for dancing, basket ball games, gymnasium, roller skating rink, banquet room, parlor, reception rooms or committee rooms. It has adequate light, bath rooms, dressing rooms.

Still another method is exemplified by The People's Theatre of La Jolla, California, which puts on four plays or programs of plays a year, running each program for several performances. No admission is charged, but a collection is taken up and sometimes a subscription list has been made. The response in this case is always very liberal. Besides this, this interesting theatre helps to plan festivals and pageants. The citizens of La Jolla are proud of the People's Theatre and are keenly alive to the high quality of plays which it has to offer. Some of these plays have been *The Doll's House* by Ibsen; *The Green-eyed Monster* by H. M. Cluster; *Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother* by the same author; *Going Some* by Rex Beach; *The Maker of Dreams* by Oliphant Down; *Hyacinth Halvey* by Lad Gregory; *The Prince's Pigeon* by Frances Walker; *The Unseen Host* by Percival Wilde; *Food* by Wm. C. DeMille, and *The Twelve Pound Look* by Sir James Mathew Barrie. Several other plays by Barrie have been given as well as a colorful production of *The Dragon's Claw*. A charming May festival was given in connection with the playgrounds, for the excellence of which the People's Theatre was largely responsible. Also in connection with this theatre there is a Community Chorus to which the public makes an enthusiastic response. This chorus is financed by subscription.

## *IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION*

Most unique of all, perhaps, as to method and policy, is the Little Country Theatre of Red River, Minn., founded in 1916. It grew out of the desire for imaginative recreation or, as one of its members expressed it—the desire for “a real little country theatre, one in which plain, common, everyday farm folks may display their musical and dramatic talent.” And these “plain, common, everyday farm folks” of Red River, have gone about establishing their theatre in a way that proved that they have a vision which many a city dweller lacks. The theatre includes in its membership practically every family in Red River. The cost of the Theatre was \$2000 and the equipment cost \$500.00, making a total cost of \$2,500 in all.

In the spirit in which the guild workers of the Middle Ages strove for their cathedrals, so did the farm folk of Red River build their theatre. Two years before the theatre was built the community began to collect the theatre fund. Through picnics and socials and entertainments, the women of the community raised \$675! The treasury of the Farmers’ Club yielded \$175. Voluntary contributions amounted to \$1050 and labor to the extent of \$650 was contributed by the men of the community. Painters, carpenters and stone masons worked together and gave freely all their leisure time in order that a dream might come true. And it has come true! Says one of the members in discussing its fulfillment: “Most interesting of all are the plays managed, staged and acted by the people of the neighborhood in the Little Country Theatre . . . Here the social and civic ideals of the community can find expression . . . It centers the interest of the community . . . ” The theatre auditorium is 28' x 60' and the stage is 12' x 20'. Theatre chairs are used in the auditorium. The theatre floor is hardwood so that it easily can be kept clean—no small item when one considers the mud of country roads so easily tracked into the hall. There is a piano for incidental music and the hall is lit by lamps. What a boon the Little Country Theatre is in an agricultural district that is far from a railroad, and that must provide its own dramatic fare, is proved by the large audience that attends everything that this theatre has to offer. Perhaps because the people of Red River are directly descended from pioneer stock which in the early days settled the prairies and combated the hardships of the wilderness, they have the power of overcoming obstacles. Certainly this theatre stands as an example of Little Country Theatres everywhere.

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

Other rural theatres working along the same general lines as the theatres already described in this article, are those of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Greenville, Ohio, Brookville, Pennsylvania.

Indeed a survey of the rural districts and other communities makes it apparent that country people have sensed the deep underlying truth of Matthew Arnold's dictum, "The theatre is invincible: organize the theatre." Of the long list of community houses mentioned in a recent government report, at least 75% are equipped with stages and auditoriums. While they cannot be listed as actual community theatres, they are, as has already been said, Little Theatres in a chrysalis state, and any moment they may emerge actual community theatres, theatres possessing not only an art standard, but a policy, a goal.

Tamalpais Center Building, Kentfield, California, is an example of a thriving Dramatic Association financed and operated by the local Women's Club. But although it is run by the Women's Club, men take part in the plays. "We are particularly proud," says one of the members, "of our scenery and costumes designed and made by our own members."

The building which houses this theatre is of stone and concrete in mission style. The auditorium is 45' x 50', seating an audience of 400. The stage has an excellent lighting system and has what many community theatres lack—eight flies, a technical equipment which means that all manner of interesting scenic effects can be adequately "tried out."

No admission is charged for performances, but the Dramatic Association dues are 25 cents a month. Occasionally, out door performances open to the entire public are given and then admission fees are charged. The money thus earned is put toward the running expenses of the theatre. There is an annual May Fete and harvest dance as well as Arbor Day Celebrations. The Community Choral Association also meets in this Theatre.

Amongst the lighter plays given by the Dramatic Association have been *Mrs. Oakley's Telephone*, *The Old Maids' Association*, *The High-Art-Ville Shakespeare Club*, *How the Story Grew*. "These," as a member says, "were given purely for the fun of the thing; but our real interest lies in our more serious productions." These have included *War Brides* by Marian Craig Wentworth; *Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; the Shepherd scenes from *A Winter's Tale* and a study

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

of the plays of Stephen Phillips, Edmond Rostand and the dramatic Book of Job.

The Dixon Township Building of Argonia, Kansas, has an auditorium seating 600 people which is used not only for high school plays, but for community Christmas celebrations, pageants and glee clubs. It serves a population of 950 people about equally divided between the village and the surrounding farms.

The Community House of Russell, Kansas, has an auditorium where plays are produced by high school students and the older people of the community. The charge of admission is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. The proceeds pay all the expenses of these dramatic experiments which so far have been of a frankly "popular" order such as: *In Old Kentucky; His Honor, the Mayor; Parish Priest; The Arrival of Kitty; Aaron Boggs, Freshman*. This auditorium is also the center for community singing. An *Evening of Old Popular Songs* was recently given. There is a community orchestra financed by the residue of the money made from the plays, and, as one of their citizens whimsically expresses it "by occasionally digging into our pockets." Concerts as well as plays are enthusiastically attended. The community orchestra programs are made up of both classical and "popular" music.

The local opera house in Elgin, Nebraska, a town of less than 1,000 inhabitants, was purchased by a community stock company hopeful of "recreational facilities for country people; development of the spirit of the community through music and drama, and the wish to give representative citizens control of the amusement enterprises of the community." There are thirty-one stockholders owning stock at \$100 per share. Membership dues are \$15 a year per family. The auditorium seats 240 people. When not in use for music or drama, it is rented to various civic organizations for lectures and other occasions to help defray expenses. Community ceremonials centering about July 4th, Memorial Day and the Christmas tree, are staged in this auditorium. There are festival and plays, particularly successful was a pageant depicting the work of the Boy Scout and Camp Fire Girl movements, set to appropriate music. There are no fixed charges of admission; prices vary according to circumstances. Says Carl W. G. Hiller, State Supervisor of Rural Surveys: "Oratorios have been very popular, such as the *Messiah; The Nazarene; The Prince of Peace*. The singers prefer oratorio

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

work to lighter material. People are always willing to laugh at something light but the house is packed to capacity for the higher type of song. People like gay music, too. Selections from *Faust* have been given, Sousa's marches—*The Liberty Bell, Stars and Stripes Forever; La Paloma* is also popular. Christmas and Easter always bring a community music festival."

The Community House of Eveleth, Minnesota, has not evolved an interest in a dramatic or musical policy. A band supplies the only music. Yet even here there are hopeful signs, for a recent outdoor pageant, *The Development of Northern Minnesota*, has stirred local interest and pride.

The incipient rural theatre of Wheaton, Minnesota, is used in a "community school building famous as 'the Wheaton idea.'" "It has an auditorium with seating capacity for 1,000 people. Its stage is 25' x 40' with building equipment. There is also housed an up-to-date motion picture stereopticon machine used for entertainment and educational purposes."

At the Mt. Morris Memorial, Chatham, New York, the people of the community make their own scenery and stage their own plays. Amongst the most successful of these was the ever-romantic *David Garrick*. Admission fees financed the plays. There is also a community orchestra, and pageants are staged at the fair grounds.

The mill town of Ware Shoals, North Carolina, has a building called Amusement Hall. It is owned and financed by the mill corporation, so that it does not represent *community effort*; yet it does represent the growing knowledge on the part of those interested in rural industrial development that there must be an antidote to monotonous labor. The auditorium is extensively used both for moving pictures and for plays. It is encouraging to know that the movies are not enough, the spoken drama is also demanded.

Woven about the undertaking of Woodstock, Tennessee, is a thread of color and romance. The people of Woodstock, which is far from any town or railroad, live in the open country. More than anything else they wished for a building where they could meet for entertainments and plays. They had no money with which to erect a new building, and the only available structure was an old and dilapidated country school, long since disused for school purposes, and become the headquarters of a gypsy camp. No voluntary fees were asked, but every person in the community

## IMAGINATIVE RURAL RECREATION

was enrolled to secure this building: through entertainments and socials, \$200 was raised, and the building purchased. The gypsies retreated; the constructionists appeared! Some men gave labor: others lumber; others paint; all took part. Not a man over 16 years of age stood idle; boys cleared the ground and pulled the weeds, so that the remodeled school house should have a fine approach. A gravel walk was made and ornamental shrubs planted. While the men worked on the building, the women served hot lunches. Later they added their quota of labor in cleaning and waxing floors and hemming curtains. Finally it stood complete, white walled and trim; the stage raised from the floor; the folding chairs finally placed in the auditorium which measured 21' x 40'. Here was the place where all national holidays could be celebrated: where the community chorus could meet: where the spirit of drama could hold sway! In keeping with their vision was the "Sunset Celebration" with which this building, the work of their own hands, was dedicated.

"For when the West is red with the sunset's embers,  
That is the time that the heart of man—remembers."

Besides these community players who have been fortunate enough to give their stages a local habitation and a name, there are hundreds of groups who are adapting themselves to other conditions, who are using buildings already available, and who are making up in the excellence of their plays what they lack in definite equipment.

The library of Bennington, Vermont, has been used for such charming dramatic productions as *The Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, and the rehearsals of Dorothy Canfield's *In Old Vermont* which the community players took to other towns.

A gifted group of community players in Avondale, Pennsylvania, have produced a gamut of operettas and plays ranging from *The Mikado* to Clyde Fitch's *The Truth* and Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*. All the costumes in the latter play were made by the people themselves: no small task when one considers the difficulties of period costuming. It has recently been planned to give six programs of one-act plays every year.

All this wide-spread enthusiasm and experimentation goes to prove one thing: the rural districts, consciously or unconsciously, are demanding imaginative recreation. Starve this demand; forget it or ignore it, and the result will be—deserted farms.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

## Material for Old New York Celebrations of the Pilgrim Tercentenary

### PLAYS FOR ADULTS

*Rip Van Winkle*, a legend of the Catskills. A romantic drama in 2 acts and 9 scenes by Charles Burke. Could be given in two scenes—one interior and one exterior; or with slight changes would make an excellent outdoor play by heightening its Dutch merrymaking effects. Seventeen men and 3 women in cast; as many children as desired. Published by Samuel French, 28 West 38th Street, New York City, price 25 cents, no royalty.

### PLAYS AND PAGEANTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*Barnaby Lee*. A dramatization of this story by Anna M. Lutkenhouse and Margaret Knox. Can be found in *Story and Play Readers*, volume II, 7th year. Six boys and 1 girl for speaking parts. At least 20 supernumeraries—both boys and girls. Good for outdoor use. Introduces such characters as Stuyvesant, Richard Nichols, Barnaby Lee. With the delightful Dutch songs and dances which it contains could be made the basis of a charming Dutch festival. The story of *Rip Van Winkle* can be found in this same volume. Published by the Century Co., New York City, price 76c.

### RECITATIONS

*Henry Hudson's Quest* (1609) by Burton E. Stevenson, to be found in *Poems of American History* published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass.

*Peter Stuyvesant's New Year Call* (1661) by Edmund Clarence Stedman, to be found in *Poems of American History*, edited by Burton Stevenson. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass.

*Rip Van Winkle*: Dramatized by Mary Augusta La Salle from *Dramatization of School Classics*. This dramatization, while authentic, is so brief that it is better used as a recitation. Published by the Educational Publishing Co., New York City.

### FIVE-FOOT BOOKSHELF THAT WILL PROVE USEFUL TO TEACHERS

*A Maid of Old New York* by Amelia Barr. Found in most libraries.

*Barnaby Lee* by John Bennett, published by the Century Co., New York City.

## THE SPREAD OF BOOKS IN CALIFORNIA

*Book of New York.* Verse collected by Hamilton F. Armstrong, published by Putnam Co., New York City.

*Henry Hudson* by Edgar Mayhew Bacon, published by Putnam Co., New York City.

*Henry Hudson* by Thomas A. Janvier, published by Harper Bros., New York City.

*Rip Van Winkle* by Washington Irving, published by Macmillan Co., New York City.

*Stories of American Explorers* by Wilbur F. Gordy, published by Scribners, New York City.

*The Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America* by John Fisk, published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass.

### MUSIC

*Dutch Suite* by Christian Kriens, published by Carl Fischer, Cooper Square, New York City, price \$4.80.

*Rip Van Winkle*, music by Reginald De Koven, can be obtained from G. Schirmer, New York City. Price \$5.00 for vocal score.

---

## The Spread of Books in California

MARSHALL M. ALDEN

California has progressed far in the development of the country library system by which books are carried into the most remote sections. Since the present law was adopted in 1911, after two years under a measure which was found to be unsuited, forty-three of the fifty-eight counties in the state have taken up the plan, although in two of these it is not operating. Others are expected to fall into line, thus providing every resident of the state with adequate library service and opening the avenues of self-education through books to the most distant dweller.

Establishment of these county libraries is through ordinance of the board of supervisors, the governing board of the county, and the institution remains under the general control of that board without the interposition of appointive trustees. Support is assured by a maximum tax rate of one mill on each dollar of assessed valuation. The county librarian is appointed by the board of supervisors but as the law requires that candidates eligible for appointment must hold a certificate issued by the board of library examiners only after a

## *HYDRANT TRANSFORMED INTO SHOWER BATH*

searching professional examination, the danger of political preferment is effectually removed.

It is obvious that the wide circulation of the best books, both technical and entertaining plays an important part in the development of any community. Books on agricultural topics tend to modernize and improve farming methods and increase the yield of the land. Volumes on the arts, sciences, professions and industries impart added incentive and provide invaluable means of self-education in particularized endeavor. With books readily accessible, the whole economic tone of the community is elevated and many problems solved which had acted as deterrents on the prosperity of the section.

From the county libraries, distribution is made over the entire county and when the people cannot come to the books, the books are sent to the people. They go into the mining and lumber camps, into all regions removed from touch with the main library and that they are welcome is attested by the innumerable spoken and written words of appreciation and gratitude.

Extension of this county unit system is advocated strongly by the American Library Association in its "Books for Everybody" movement which is designed to foster the habit of serious reading and universal self-education through books and libraries. For the maintenance of this enlarged program for at least three years, a fund of \$2,000,000 is being raised by librarians, library trustees and friends of libraries without recourse to the usual intensive public campaign.

---

### **A Water Hydrant Transformed into a Shower Bath**

**JESSIE PAYNE**

They are making improvements these days on the old-fashioned shower bath that had its source in the fire hydrant. The earlier plan was quite simple. You stood anywhere from five to fifty feet from the nozzle and let your partner turn on the water when the policeman or the fireman wasn't looking.

A simple bit of mechanism has been devised to "legalize" the old-time shower at the hydrant. A perforated pipe with a four-inch curve does the work. In Waterbury, Connecticut, seven showers have been installed in various parts of the city, at an aggregate cost of less than \$50. In some cases swimming trunks are kept for the

## *IMPROVING THE BACKSTOP*

boys in the fire station so that they can have them available every hot day. The younger set in Waterbury, especially that part of it which doesn't get around to the country club swimming pool, likes the new plan a great deal better than the old, which involved running half a mile with a policeman at your heels.

Brass pipe is recommended in Waterbury for the attachment to the hydrant, since it is cheaper to bore holes in, and will not rust. One-inch pipe is large enough, with five rows of perforations (1/16" holes)  $\frac{3}{4}$ " apart.

The parts necessary in addition to the perforated 1" pipe include a hydrant cap topped  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe, two  $\frac{3}{4}$ " close nipples, a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " union,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " elbow, three feet and six inches of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe (lead-out to perforated shower pipe) and a one by one inch tee, and 4 feet of one-inch brass pipe( to be perforated)

Francis Mahoney, executive secretary of Waterbury Community Service, one of whose jobs is to provide wholesome sport and recreation for the boys of that city, devised the hydrant shower attachment, and kept on advocating it until the authorities took it up.

Playground and recreation experts all over the country have long since discovered that the simplest equipment often gives the most enjoyment in a community. The hydrant shower bath system proves this principle.

---

## **Improving the Backstop**

ARTHUR LELAND, Playground Architect, Newport, Rhode Island

The average baseball backstop is usually a thing of ugliness and an eyesore forever. It is unsafe for pedestrians or small children to be within the radius of foul balls. This necessitates a very large supplementary area for "the game" and with the present high cost of sporting goods the lost ball account reaches alarming proportions. Newport has solved the backstop problems so that the playing area required and the range of destructiveness is greatly reduced by proper screens and a hood backstop. This design of backstop is pleasing to the eye and saves lost balls. Under the hood of wire netting the most exciting games of a successful sunset league have been played with interest in amateur baseball kept up till the opening of the football season for the first time in the history of the city. Home plate is within forty feet of

## BOOK REVIEWS

the street where automobiles are parked and passenger trains made up just beyond, with much travel to and from the station.

There have been no accidents and no broken windows and not a single lost ball. Between the diamond and the roadway is a space thirty six feet wide where small children safely play on swings, tilts, and giant stride. Back of the backstop, between it and the road, is a handball court which is much used. No batted ball can reach the street or the children. Occasionally a high infield fly hits the net overhead, no foul can escape.

Of course there is occasionally a howl from the players; the joy of catching a foul back of the bat is done away with, but real baseball is made possible in a very small area.

---

## Book Reviews

Is your community to have a Labor Day celebration? If so, you will be interested in securing "A Tribute to Labor—Suggestions for a Labor Day Program," which has just been issued in mimeographed form by Community Service, One Madison Avenue. Copies may be secured at 10 cents each.

## GAMES AND PLAY FOR SCHOOL MORALE

Copies of *Games and Play for School Morale*—a course of graded games for school and community recreation, arranged by Mr. Mel Sheppard and Miss Anna Vaughan of Community Service, are now ready for distribution. This booklet with the directions it contains for playing games, is exceedingly practical and will be particularly valuable for teachers and recreation workers who are directing games for children. A few suggestions are offered for group games for adults, though the pamphlet does not stress this phase of recreation.

Single copies may be secured from the Playground and Recreation Association, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

## SEVEN CHURCH PAGEANTS DEMOCRACY SAVING THE WORLD

By the Reverend Carroll Lund Bates. Published by the Parish Leaflet Company, Hobart, Indiana

These simple dignified pageants will be found useful in Church and Sunday School work. Among the pageants in the first pamphlet are those for Advent, Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide. There is a Foreword by James Wise, Bishop of Kansas.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### MERRY-GO-ROUND—THE ORIENT

Published by the Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City

An Oriental entertainment, providing a trip through various rooms decorated to represent Oriental countries. In each "country" characteristic entertainment is presented. Other games and entertainments are also suggested and sources for material given.

### EVERYGIRL

By Mary S. Edgar. Published by the Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City Price, thirty-five cents

The purpose and spirit of the Young Women's Christian Association as it works in the lives of its girls is here dramatized to make a simple but beautiful and artistic pageant.

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

A Handbook for Workers. Bulletin, 1919, No. 76. By Fred Clayton Butler, Director of Americanization, Bureau of Education

The principles and practice of Americanization work are briefly set forth. Many valuable suggestions are given in the pages devoted to recreation. "One of the great by-products of recreation is that it brings not only the various foreign races together, but it does or should bring the native American into the melting pot."

### LEADERSHIP OF GIRLS ACTIVITIES

By Mary E. Moxcey. Published by the Methodist Book Concern, New York City. Price, fifty cents

The new concept of the double duty of a Sunday School teacher as teacher and comrade leader brings a need which this volume is written to help in meeting. "The direct influences of occupational and free-time environment and activities are today recognized as of the utmost importance for the determination of life ideals and principles of conduct." It is a well-planned little book, with internal evidence of real knowledge of girls. Physical, mental and social recreation are discussed with many practical devices. Not the least good chapter is the one on the leader testing herself.

### SCOUTING FOR GIRLS

Official Handbook of the Girl Scouts. Published by the Girl Scouts, Inc., 189 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

The result of collaboration on the part of practical workers in the Girl Scout organization from every part of the country, this attractive khaki-bound volume contains a wealth of interesting material. In his Foreword Sir Robert Baden Powell traces the history of the Girl Guide movement in England, and pays a tribute to Mrs. Juliette Low, through whose efforts the idea was successfully introduced to America. The measure of its success may be judged from the fact that at the present time nearly 82,000 girls and more than 3,600 Captains represent the original troop which was enrolled in Savannah, Georgia, in 1912.

Beginning with a statement of principles, organization and policy of the Girl Scouts, the successive chapters deal with forms for scout ceremonies, class tests, drill and signalling. A section on The Scout Aide gives a particularly detailed and practical discussion of Home Economics, Child Care, First Aid, Home Nursing, Public Health and Personal Health. No nature lover, young or old, will fail to enjoy the chapters on woodcraft, camping, nature study and gardening. One of the finest features of the handbook is the list of reference reading which contains some of the world's best books.